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THE

JOURNAL

OF AN

ORIENTAL VOYAGE,

IN

HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP AFRICAINE,

BY

LIEUTENANT RICHARD BLAKENEY,
ROYAL MARINES.

LONDON.
SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, AND CO.,
STATIONER'S-HALL COURT, LUDGATE-STREET.

1841.

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TO

SIR GEORGE SCOTT, K.C.B.,

VICE ADMIRAL OF THE WHITE.

DEDICATED

WITH THE HIGHEST RESPECT, AND UNALTERABLE REGARD,

ARISING FROM A LONG SERVITUDE

UNDER HIS COMMAND, DURING THE LATE WAR,

BY HIS

OBEDIENT SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

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INTRODUCTION.

A VOYAGE to India, no doubt, as it affords a wide field for observation to the traveller, must convey much mental gratification to every class of intelligent readers, if it be replete with useful variety. While we enjoy the blessings of European customs, habits, and manners, we naturally look abroad into the world at large to contemplate those of other countries; hence the details of an eye witness may prove interesting, and the author trusts that he has been able to collect such matter during his servitude on board his majesty's ship Africaine, as may, if not proved worthy, at least claim the indulgence, of some attention, and be sufficient to give some idea of the places he visited. The following pages

were originally only intended for the perusal of immediate friends, and were written with the view of recurring to those eventful days spent in a distant clime. The Journal of a Voyage made in the late war, too, cannot fail more or less to interest the reader; for it comprises circumstances connected not only with the "wooden walls of old England," but with that chain of successful events by which, under the blessing of God, the British subject has been protected from the hostile invader, and thus made the permanent master of his rightful possessions. Surely the happy Englishman cannot but look back with pleasure to those days when his country fought for, and gloriously maintained, its liberty. The author has been induced thus to give publicity to a private Journal, to use a well-worn excuse, by the solicitation of many who have read the original manuscript, and he wishes, with all his heart, that his abilities were of that high order, that would have enabled him to make his

little work less imperfect and more worthy of the high patronage extended to it; however, the detail being simple, and a strict adherence to facts, his chief object, he trusts that it may meet with approbation, and be the means not only of giving to the youth of the rising generation an idea of the customs, habits, and religions of foreign countries, but also of leading the general reader to the contemplation of Him who plants his footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm, whose glory is manifest in all his works.

ORIENTAL VOYAGE.

CHAP. I.

Departure from England—Arrival at, and description of, Madeira—Criminality of a Romish Priest—Escape of a Nun from a Convent—Capture of a French Frigate—Short account of the Canary Islands.

On the 23d of August, 1811, I embarked on board his Majesty's ship, Africaine,* of thirty-eight guns, lying in Portsmouth harbour, commanded by the Hon. Captain Rodney, son of the late gallant Lord Rodney, and manned by three hundred and fifty men.

The destination of the ship was unknown until the beginning of September, when we received orders to fit for foreign service, as also to prepare for the the reception of Lieutenant General Brownrigg, the newly appointed governor of Ceylon. On the 8th

* Originally a French frigate, captured in 1800, by his Majesty's ship Phœbe, after a running fight, in which three hundred of the enemy were killed and wounded—the British lost only one man. The Africaine was recaptured in 1809 by two large French frigates, after a most obstinate resistance, but only remained in their possession one hour. His Majesty's frigate, Boadicea (consort of the Africaine) being in sight, the enemy escaped, leaving behind the prize.

of September we went out of harbour and anchored at Spithead; our stay here was much longer than we expected, owing to the detention of the lieutenant general's luggage.

24th November, weighed anchor, and stood out to St. Helen's. At three o'clock, p. m., the lieutenant-general, accompanied by his family and suite, came on board; a fine breeze filled the sails, and our course was directed down the channel. The services of our country thus forced us to leave the fertile and happy shores of old England and all the beloved objects it contained. The emotion which was felt, when the inward thrillings of affection awoke to our memory those fond and endearing friends whom we left behind, is indescribable —to those we bade a long adieu. On this occasion the words of the poet came with power to my mind—

"Farewell, the chalky cliffs of Britain's Isle,
Farewell to love and ——— angelic smile;
Farewell to pleasure and home's peaceful scene,
Where days of youth were spent in gay serene.
Ah, many a setting sun shall gild the main,
Ere we shall taste those genuine sweets again.
The scene is changed, Elysian fields adieu,
The eastern blast hastens us from its view.
The fathomless deep we are doomed to roam,
While anxious cares await our friends at home.
Yet oft' as evening sheds its watery gleam,
Or morning shoots afar its purple beam.
Whether we stem far distant India's wave,
With daring prow, or polar terrors brave;
Still, still, on ye, the anxious thought shall dwell,
Ye genuine friends, we now bid farewell."

1st December, made the Land's End, and, as the sun sank into the glowing bosom of the west, took our final departure from old England; all hands were on deck to get the last glimpse of the shore we left with such inexpressible feelings. Our hearts were naturally pierced with grief at the reflection that this would be to many of us, and perhaps to all, the last setting sun we would ever see in sight of Britain. Language cannot describe our feelings on leaving the shore which contained those near and endearing friends whom we had but little expectation of ever seeing again.

At length the sun receded from the empire of the air, and on its declining beams arose the pale lamp of night; our sails were filled with a sweet and gentle breeze, which wafted us o'er the deep. The scene was soon changed; at midnight the wind increased to a perfect gale, which lasted three days, and drove us within sixty miles of Ireland. A sight of my dear native land would, at a moment like this, have been most pleasing. If the wind had continued adverse another day we would have been obliged to put into Cork, but having shifted to the N.W., it enabled us to direct our course for the Madeiras.

Nothing particular occurred until the 11th, when we made Portosanto, a small island to the westward of Madeira. During the evening we ran in between the deserters and Portosanto, and at nine p.m. hove too close to the town of Funchal, the appearance of which is

very remarkable; the lights, rising one above another to the mountain's top, have a most pleasing effect. At day light we found ourselves about three miles from the land, and as the sun arose, a commanding prospect of the town, interspersed with villas and churches, opened to our view—it was a most delightful scene. At ten a. m. we came to an anchor in Funchal bay, the capital of Madeira, situated in 32 north latitude, and 17 west longitude.

Madeira is about fifty-four miles in length, and twenty-one in breadth; it contains thirty-seven parishes, and its inhabitants are computed to be eighty thousand. The houses are white, and greatly diversify the picturesque and natural graces of the surrounding country; the climate is delightful, and vegetation is never checked. Surely the inhabitants cannot reflect but with the deepest sense of gratitude to Divine Providence on the salubrity of climate so conducive to health, serenity and pleasure, which those elevated regions afford. It is remarkable that the Madeiras produce no venemous creatures. There are numerous lizards, perfectly harmless and inoffensive. Streams of water run through the streets, and, instead of being receptacles of filth, are taken advantage of to promote cleanliness; and thus become a source of comfort to the inhabitants.

Madeira is well defended by nature and art; where a debarkation can be effected, it is strongly fortified by batteries; the coast is in general rocky, with a tre-

mendous and destructive surge. The aspect of the island is delightful, abounding with excellent and fragrant pasturage. Vineyards, orange groves, and the declivity of the hills, plentifully clothed with agriculture and odorous plants, afford a great variety to the prospect. The landscape painter would here have a fine subject for his pencil, and the botanist a considerable fund of amusement. The convents and friaries are the chief buildings. Within the convents (professedly hallowed to peace and penitence) females are secluded—the victims of superstition and tyranny. A circumstance occurred while we lay here sufficient to condemn the practice of immuring helpless females in a convent, wholly under the controul of unmarried men. It was discovered that a priest had been guilty of violating the confidence of the nunnery—an event of frequent occurrence in this island, as well as, I regret to say, in many other places which I have visited. The deed becoming public, the clergy of the Romish church were compelled to punish the offender severely—he was transported to the Brazils. How plainly does not holy Scripture, but also facts, condemn the system of celibacy and monasticism, as pregnant with evil. What claim has the Church of Rome to holiness, as a distinctive mark of Catholicity, while she not only permits, but also leads her members by *unlawful* restraints to the commission of that which the "Lord of Hosts" hath forbidden?

I cannot refrain from mentioning another circumstance which occurred about two years ago, when cruising among the Western Islands, in company with a sloop of war. The officers of the sloop, accompanied by myself and others of the ship, having landed at one of the islands, had a conversation with the nuns who dwelt there—a large grating separating us from them; they intreated us to release them from their imprisonment, regretting, at the same time, that we were heretics. A plan was immediately formed by the captain and first lieutenant of the sloop, at the desire of the nuns, for their escape; accordingly scaling ladders were thrown up to the windows, and one of them succeeded in her descent; the second, when endeavouring to follow, broke her leg, the ladder having given way, to the great disappointment and dismay of the others, who were about to throw themselves on the mercy of British tars. Melancholy to relate, the nun who had broken her leg was captured and confined in a dismal dungeon; her companions, who had been equally desirous of escape, were compelled, when passing by the cell, to spit upon and strike her face with their shoes; the captive, not being allowed proper sustenance, or surgical advice, died the victim of unscriptural dogmas and Popish intolerance. The nun, who had succeeded in escaping, was conveyed to Halifax, in British America, where I afterwards saw her in good health, and full of joy at having escaped from the gloomy walls

of the convent. Last year I visited Madeira in his Majesty's ship, Horatio, accompanied by her prize, La Necessitie. It may not be uninteresting to mention the circumstance which led to that visit. We sailed from Spithead with three hundred merchant vessels, destined for various parts of the world, and convoyed by two line-of-battle ships, six frigates and four brigs. The night was moonlight, and as the shipping majestically sailed with a fine breeze, we rejoiced in the conviction that the wooden walls of Britannia had rendered her the mistress of the seas; the ships, covering an immense extent of ocean, presented the appearance of a dense forest—it was impossible for the sternmost to descry the foremost. We continued our course until we got near the Madeiras, when a heavy gale separated us. Having received orders to cruize between the Western and Cape Verd Islands, our course was directed accordingly. We were not many days on our station, when, one morning, the man at the mast-head reported "a sail in sight." The boatswain's pipe, summoning all hands on deck to make sail, was a gladdening sound, and every heart now beat anxiously, as we hoped to fall in with an enemy and add honor to the British flag. At twelve o'clock we discovered the strange sail to be a French vessel with a poop. The day being hazy, she had the appearance of a line-of-battle ship. The Marine drums and fifes played the well-known national air, "Hearts of Oak." The

decks were cleared for action, and the seamen at their posts. A party of thirty Marines were stationed on the quarter deck, under my command, and another of twenty on the forecastle, under the command of my brother, the second lieutenant. Although the enemy appeared to be of superior size, we did not slacken sail, but continued a steady course; all hands were at quarters, and the guns double shoted. At three o'clock, when within musket shot, the enemy broached too, and fired a broadside. The appearance of the cannon, vomiting forth fire, while the ship was enveloped in smoke and encircled by a rainbow, was most striking and beautiful. As our fore-top mast was shot through, and some of the rigging cut away, we feared she would escape by crippling us, and so opened our fire at about half musket shot. The action was now carried on with vigour. The sea being rough we were unable to fire with precision, and consequently hauled our fore and main tack on board, determined to carry the enemy by boarding. On observing this, she struck her colours, (after a running fight of one hour), which was responded to by three hearty cheers from the British tars.

At this time the safety of my brother, whom I had forgotten in the heat of action, flashed across my mind. When looking towards the forecastle, my eyes were greeted by seeing him standing on a gun and earnestly cheering. The enemy proved to be the French frigate,

Necessitie, manned by two hundred and fifty sailors and a hundred and fifty soldiers, she was laden with naval stores, and bound for the Isle of France.* I accompanied the first lieutenant in taking possession of her, and having received orders to secure the magazine, on entering it was horrified at perceiving a lighted candle stuck in a barrel of gunpowder, and several others, in lanterns, carelessly thrown about. This was evidently a plan for the destruction of the ship and captors; but the Lord was pleased to avert it, and accordingly many brave lives were spared. We towed our prize into the Madeiras.

14th. Having completed our supply of water, we weighed with a fine breeze, and on the 15th saw the Peak of Teneriffe, towering above the clouds, and distant one hundred and thirty miles. I visited the Canary Islands in 1810, in his Majesty's ship, Horatio, when employed to run down the African and Guinea coasts. It may not be an uninteresting digression, while the Africaine is directing her course to the Cape de Verds, to take a short retrospective view of them. The Canary or Fortunate Islands form an interesting group from

* Her consort, a large frigate, was in sight during the action. The following morning, at day break, she was perceived on our weather beam; all sail was instantly made in chase during which time we overhauled her, so that we could perceive her courses from the deck. Night coming on, and having the weather gage of us, she escaped.

east to west. Teneriffe is the most remarkable amongst them, the peak of which is, perhaps, one of the highest on record; its apex is frequently veiled in the clouds, and cannot fail to delight and astonish the observer of nature. It would be difficult, perhaps, to meet with a prospect so remarkable. The Peak is upwards of three miles in perpendicular height above the level of the sea, and visible at the distance of an hundred and fifty miles; this celebrated mountain cannot be ascended on account of the snow, except from July to September; the summit of it resembles a cone placed on a table, or rather a small base, and can only be ascended by a zigzag path; the south side is bordered with hideous calcine rocks, mostly red and white. The downward view consists of a variety of ridges covered with beautiful low trees, flourishing in a perpetual spring; from amongst them issues water which tumbles down in small cataracts, and, together with the stupendous height of the mountain, forms a most beautiful landscape. Amongst the scenery are interspersed handsome villages, the dwellings of the peaceful inhabitants. The flocks of sheep and goats, feeding on the hills, or bounding from the rocks, and the playful lambs, render the scene truly pastoral. The forms of gardens, plantations, and the groves of oranges, present to the eye a prospect at once astonishing and beautiful.

The ancient inhabitants of the Canaries were called Guanches; the capital is Palmas, situated in the Island

of Canary; but St. Croix, in the Island of Teneriffe, where the seat of government is settled, is the most populous. Wheat, barley, and oats, are the produce of these islands; they also yield a quantity of sugar. The olive, cypress, laurel, and pine trees, flourish here in great abundance. The tree, yielding the gum, called dragon's blood, is not uncommon; it gathers the vapours, so that the dropping from the leaves supplies the natives plentifully with water.

The inhabitants appear to be surrounded with an exuberance of all the necessaries of life, they are free from care, and only labour as it were for pleasure, nothing being apparently wanting to contribute to their temporary happiness.

These islands were first discovered and planted by the Carthagenians; but the Romans having overturned that state, put a stop to the navigation on the west coast of Africa, consequently the Canaries lay concealed until the year 1405, when they were discovered by the Spaniards.

CHAP. II.

Visit of Neptune, when crossing the Equator—Account of Tristan de Achuna—Singular undertaking of Mr. Lambert.

18th. At daylight discovered breakers close on the lee bow, and evidently would have been on shore in a few minutes if we had not hauled to the wind. Shortly after we saw the land, which proved to be one of the Cape de Verd Islands; they are about twenty in number, and were discovered by Antonio Volli, in the year 1460.

21st. In the afternoon we took our departure, and shaped our course to the S.W., in latitude 6° 30′ north, longitude 21° 38″ west; we found the current setting to the N.N.W. half a mile per hour.

28th. Had a heavy fall of rain, accompanied by thunder and lightning; the rain was very acceptable, and all hands were employed in catching it. Blankets and sheets were used for this purpose.

2d January, 1812. Entered the Southern Atlantic —thermometer 93. The Equator was crossed in 25 west longitude, with a light breeze from the south-east.

At 9, a. m., the sound of Triton's shells announced the approach of Neptune. We were hailed by a coarse voice, " Ship-a-hoy—What ship is that, who is the

captain ?" Being answered by the officer of the watch, we were ordered to heave too, which was immediately obeyed. Neptune came on board, attended by Amphitrite and a long train of attendants. Their dress was truly laughable; long, half wet swabs, bespattered with flour and oatmeal, composed their flowing locks, while their faces and bodies were bedaubed with red paint and other colours, which made them appear like demons of a still lower region than the sea. The Marine god having been placed in a car prepared for the occasion, on the forecastle, accompanied by Amphitrite and their child, surrounded by attendants, and the band playing "Rule Britannia," proceeded to the quarter deck, where they were received by the captain and officers. Neptune saluted his old acquaintances, which were very few, and having expressed pleasure at seeing them again in his territories, desired to be introduced to those who had not entered them before. He addressed a long speech to the captain, in which he highly complimented him and the memory of his father, Lord Rodney.

The ceremony of shaving and ducking now commenced; and as there were but fourteen of us on board who had previously crossed the line, the labour was very severe; I felt it much, having been appointed chief constable—a laborious and disagreeable office—being obliged to bring the officers and men, one after another, to undergo the ordeal of the ceremony. The captain led, and was followed by the officers, according to

seniority; then the seamen and marines, as they mustered on the ship's books. A boat on the booms being previously filled with water, and a narrow plank placed across the gunwale, the person about to be inducted was led forth blindfolded from below, and placed on the plank, ignorant of the result; many questions were asked, and while answering, the support being suddenly withdrawn, he was immersed in the water. Much opposition was given until the forces were increased by those who had undergone the ceremony, who, afterwards, took very great delight in assisting.

The assistant surgeon, in particular, gave opposition; when approached by the attendants of Neptune, he seized an amputating knife, and threatened to stab any one who would dare to touch him; however, he did not escape. An opportunity was taken when he thought himself perfectly secure, being seated in the cockpit. A bowling knot on the bite of a rope was thrown over him, by which he was secured and hauled triumphantly to the scene of immersion, where he was roughly handled owing to his obstinacy, and treated to a double allowance of Neptune's *grog*. The sports of the day ended with general festivity and good humour.

4th. Caught a dolphin, which displayed, in the agonies of death, its inherent property of often changing colour. Large quantities of flying fish were also caught by means of the dolphin, which pursued them with great swiftness—the flying fish endeavouring to escape from the pursuer, took refuge in the chains or

decks of the ship; it is somewhat like the herring, and has wings four or five inches long; it is able to fly about a mile, and when the wings become dry, instantly falls into the water; it is much esteemed, and considered an excellent dish.

6th. A waterspout appeared in the S.W., and shortly after two smaller ones; they are dangerous, and can be broken by the concussion of cannon; as they approached us we took the necessary precaution, which brought to my recollection the following beautiful lines of Falconer:—

"When on the larboard quarter they descry,
A liquid column towering shoot on high;
The foaming base the angry whirlwinds sweep,
Where curling billows rouse the fearful deep.
Still round and round the fluid vortex flies,
Diffusing briny vapours o'er the skies;
This vast phenomenon, whose lofty head
In heaven immersed, embracing clouds o'erspread.
In spiral motion first, as seamen deem,
Swells when the raging whirlwind sweeps the stream;
The swift volution and th' enormous train,
Let sages versed in nature's lore explain.
The horrid apparition still draws nigh,
And white with foam the whirling billows fly.
The guns were primed—the vessel northward veers,
Till her black battery on the column bears;
The nitre fired, and while the dreadful sound,
Convulsive shook the slumbering air around;
The wat'ry volume trembling to the sky,
Burst down a dreadful deluge from on high.
The expanding ocean trembled as it fell,
And felt with swift recoil her surges swell."

The tropic birds, for the first time since we entered the torrid zone, began to make their appearance; they are about the size of a pidgeon, and snow white, with two beautiful long feathers from the tail; they fly hundreds of miles from the land. We continued for several days to the southward, and when in the latitude of the Cape of Good Hope, the wind being favourable, altered our course to the S.E., giving up our former intention of touching at the Cape.

18th. At daylight discovered land from the mast-head, and supposed ourselves, by chronometer, about eight leagues from Tristan de Achuna, where we were desirous of watering; but to our great disappointment a thick fog obscured the islands from view. We beat about in the hope of procuring the necessary refreshments, but after three days of great anxiety, were obliged to make sail to E. S. E. with a fine breeze from the W. S. W. While running down our easting, in the parallel of forty and forty-four south, the relation of a few circumstances connected with the islands of Tristan de Achuna, may not be uninteresting. They are situated in latitude 37 south, longitude 12 east, upwards of fifteen hundred miles from any continent, and subdistinguished by the appellation of the inaccessible and nightingale islands; they merit particular attention, being in the track of ships bound for China and India.

A settlement has been in contemplation, for the

purpose of accomodating outward-bound ships, and would be a good situation for extracting the spermaceti of the white and long-nosed whale, the oil of other species, and preparing the furs of the sea lions and seals.

The only inhabitants of those islands are a Mr. Lambert, a mariner of Salem, in the states of Massachusetts, who, in conjunction with two others, has taken possession of them. The history of these adventurers is as follows:

Mr. Lambert, it seems, published a proclamation, dated February, 1810, in which he made known his intention of forming an establishment on the islands in question, and declared that he constituted himself sole proprietor of them (as they were never claimed by any power) from the date above mentioned, founding his title, not on the questionable rights of conquest or discovery, but on the rational and solid principle of actual occupation. This general appellation has been accordingly altered by him to that of the Islands of Refreshment, in allusion probably to the hospitality which strangers may expect to find when they chance to pay him a visit.

The motive which he assigned for this enterprise was a desire to make a provision for his family, and to relieve himself from certain difficulties under which he had hitherto laboured. Mr. Lambert proposed to devote his attention, as much as possible, to tillage, in

order that he might be enabled to supply such ships as would touch at his island (when the same shall be better known in the world) with all its productions at a moderate price. He has further thought fit to adopt a distinguishing flag for the use of his territories. In his intercourse, commercial and otherwise, with the rest of the world, and also in that of his subjects, he promises to be guided by the principles of hospitality, good fellowship, and the laws of nations, always, however, reserving to himself the power of deviating from those laws whenever they may appear to interfere with any particular treaties, or, in other words, whenever interest and justice may happen to be at variance. The latest account we have of this island is dated 28th February, 1811; the following are the particulars, related in a letter from Benjamin T. Seaver, to the commander-in-chief of the Cape of Good Hope, viz.—

"In December last, when on the Coast of Brazil, having fallen in with an American ship, I understood there was a man on board by the name of Jonathan Lambert, a native of America, who had resolved to establish himself on the large island of Tristan de Achuna, for the purpose of cultivating the soil and breeding poultry, with other stock, expecting it would be an inducement for vessels passing that track to touch for refreshment whenever the island might be known.

"On the 20th January, 1811, being in sight of these

islands, and at a short distance from the principal one, I determined on dispatching a boat to take in water, when Mr. Lambert, with two other men, were found, and reported that they had been landed twenty days. Having been before apprised of Mr. Lambert's resolution of settling himself on this island, I was desirous of rendering him every assistance my capacity would allow, and accordingly, after the necessary water was procured, landed in a deep cove on the north side. At the distance of a mile to the west of this inlet there was a spot of ground that Lambert had cleared for a garden; full two acres were laid out in neat beds, with raddishes and cabbage plants, growing in great luxuriance, and more than one inch above the surface; India corn, potatoes, pumpkins, with the water and musk melon, were also above ground. In turning up the soil with a spade, a stratum of black mould appeared full two feet deep over a layer of rich reddish clay. Not six yards from this cultivated spot, there is a run of water which has its source in the mount, running, or meandering towards the sea, then falling abruptly about fifty feet on a shining beach, presenting a most beautiful cascade. The land fit to be cultivated, according to a rough calculation, may not be less than from three to four thousand acres, and capable of producing corn, cotton, tobacco, and hemp, also the grape vine, with fruit of every kind; the climate may be congenial too. The spontaneous herbage, and

shrubs, without doubt, would be good grazing for black cattle, goats, and sheep. Hitherto the island has been visited with ships in search of seal skins and oil, which have been procured in great quantities. Many seals and sea elephants come on shore in the months of June, July, and August, from the latter of which oil is extracted.

"Mr. Lambert expressed a wish that I would make known his hope, that the view with which he set out would be considered by the British government and the Hon. the East India Company, laudable, and deserving their protection and assistance, in any way that might promote his undertaking and exertions, to refresh whatever vessels might be passing in that track of sea, and whenever the sanction of the British government should be known, the necessary assistance having been given him, he would most solemnly declare himself a friend to that government, and with their permission display the British flag on the island, reserving, however, always to himself the governorship, provided an equivalent could be agreed upon."

Notwithstanding the eccentricity of Mr. Lambert's scheme, there is no doubt but it will turn out very profitably.

CHAP. III.

Collision of the ship with a whale—Arrival at Columbo—Debarkation and reception of his Excellency Lieutenant General Brownrigg—Account of Columbo—The Caffree Troops—Extraordinary Titles of the King of Candy—Superstition of the Ceylonese.

Our disappointment in not getting water at Tristan de Achuna, determined us to steer for St. Paul's and Amsterdam, two small islands in latitude 38° south; longitude 77° east, and obliged us to go on a short allowance of water: which privation was greatly felt.

In running our longitude down, we saw great numbers of whales appearing occasionally like rocks. We shot some albitrosses, and caught others with a hook and line; they were of a prodigious size, some of them measuring from the tip of the wings sixteen and seventeen feet; their bill is exceedingly hard, strong, and about a foot long; they have been frequently known to attack men when over board, an instance of which occurred on our passage. A man fell from the fore chains, and in less than two minutes an albitross picked out his brains before assistance could be given.

From the 20th of January to the 16th of February we had one continual gale from the S.W., running at the rate of two hundred and seventy-seven miles

a day. On the 30th, the ship struck very violently, going eleven knots an hour. Being in the middle of the Southern Ocean, and not expecting land, our situation for the moment was rather alarming, particularly to those below, who immediately flew on deck. It was discovered that we had struck on a whale, and a great quantity of blood was seen at the stern of the ship. The man at the mast-head said he saw something floating like a whale, but having seen several of them during his look-out, he did not conceive it necessary to report it. The whale must have been either asleep or sick when the ship struck.

After running between five and six thousand miles to the eastward, the wind still continued favourable; being in latitude 35° 30" south, longitude 74° 25" east, we altered our course to the north-east, and determined to make all sail for India, without watering at St. Paul's or Amsterdam. In running down our latitude, we experienced an extreme of heat—the small allowance of water too, and the total exhaustion of fresh provisions, added much to our suffering.

Nothing worth notice occurred during the remainder of our passage. We saw and caught great numbers of Portuguese men of war; they are beautiful pink coloured bladders, in the shape of shells, and put out innumerable arms, which sting severely on being touched; they rise above the surface of the water and scud before the wind like little ships.

8th March, made Dondra-head, the southern point of Ceylon.

9th. Hove too off Point de Gall; sent a boat on shore for refreshments, and on her return were plentifully supplied with poultry, fruit, and bread.

10th. This evening came to an anchor in Columbo Roads. The distance run from the Land's End to Ceylon was fourteen thousand three hundred and seventeen miles, being at the rate of six miles an hour. Our passage may be considered quick, taking into account the season of the year.

11th. This morning his Excellency Lieutenant General Brownrigg, family and suite, disembarked, under a salute of nineteen guns, from his Majesty's ship Africaine. His Excellency was received on shore by the Lieutenant Governor, the members of council, the principal civil servants, and the military staff. He then proceeded to the Government House—the streets and parades where he passed were lined with troops. The lieutenant general, accompanied by his suite and the principal officers, returned to the parade within the fort, where the troops of the garrison were formed into a hollow square, and his Majesty's commission, appointing Lieutenant General Brownrigg governor and commander-in-chief of his Majesty's possessions in the Island of Ceylon, was publicly read by the secretary. The commission appointing him Vice-Admiral of the island and its dependencies, was also read. The

troops presented arms, and, at the conclusion of the ceremony, fired three vollies. A royal salute was also fired from the batteries, and the Africaine. The lieutenant-general returned to the council chamber, where the usual oath, as expressed in his Majesty's instructions, was administered to him by the chief justices, after which he took his seat in council as governor and commander-in-chief; a salute of nineteen guns was fired on this occasion. A public breakfast was given by the governor, at which were present the principal civil and military inhabitants, with the officers of the Africaine.

Columbo was built in 1638, by the Portuguese, and is the capital of Ceylon. The first settlers were expelled by the Dutch, in 1658, who surrendered to the English, in 1796. The town is built in the European style. The fort, in which the town is situated, is upwards of a mile in circumference, and erected on the extremity of a point of land. The natives live in the old town, and consist of a mixture of Portuguese and Dutch. The fort is of great strength, and garrisoned by three regiments—the 19th, a Caffree, and a native regiment. The black troops are clothed much in the same manner as the Europeans, with the exception of shoes.

Along with their muskets, they generally wear kreeses, or poisoned daggers, and in the heat of an engagement, have been known to throw down the

former, and rushing upon the enemy with the latter, to carry terror and destruction wherever they appeared. On this account, the King of Kandy's troops fear the Caffree soldiery more than the British.

The possessions which we hold are confined to the coast, and do not extend more than a few miles into the interior; the remainder is claimed by the King, as within his dominions. His power over his subjects is unlimited.

The King of Kandy yields to no eastern prince in the extravagance of his titles. For several of these he is indebted to the Portuguese and Dutch, who were extremely liberal in repaying him with them for the possession of any part of his kingdom, which they found convenient to appropriate to their use. His Kandian Majesty is usually designated "Emperor of Ceylon;" "King of Kandy and Jaffnapatam;" "Prince descended from the Golden Sun, whose kingdom and city of Kandy is higher than any other, and before whom all others must fall prostrate;" "Prince of Ouva;" "Duke over the Seven Provinces and Corles of the East;" "Marquis of Duranuro and the Four Corles;" "Lord of Columbo and Galì;" "Lord of the Seaports of Negumbo, Caltura and Matura, to whom the Island of Manaar and Calpenteen belongs;" "Lord of the Fishery of Pearls;" "The Owner of all Precious Stones;" "The Prince before whom elephants bow." These, with a long train of similar honors, are always

added to his Majesty's address. No one dare approach him without prostrating himself three times before the throne, and repeating a long string of his titles.

Notwithstanding the high-sounding titles and exalted rank of this monarch, he is as superstitious as the most menial of his subjects. In fact superstition appears to prevail among all classes of Ceylonese; the highest is not less swayed by it than the most abject of the people. A curious instance of the credulity of the courtiers occurred during the expedition of General Macduel, in 1800. The king being alarmed at the quick progress and activity of the enemy, assembled all his priests and soothsayers to devise the best means by which he might be most certainly destroyed. After all due consultation, they told the King that it was in vain to attempt the general's life, (which was only vulnerable by golden bullets), with the sword, or even musketry loaded according to the usual manner, with lead.

Golden bullets were accordingly prepared, and people appointed to watch an opportunity for using them; but the general, having received timely warning, was on his guard, and escaped the weapons of the soothsayers.

CHAP. IV.

Religion of the Ceylonese—Image of Buddou at Calam—The Mountain of Hammallel—Tradition respecting Adam—The Bogha Tree—Marriage Ceremonies—The Talipot Tree.

The superstitious fears and ceremonies of the Ceylonese form the chief part of their devotion towards supernatural beings. They acknowledge a supreme Deity, who governs all things. It gives us a striking proof of their confused ideas with regard to religion, when we find them not only adoring one Supreme Being as more powerful than all others, but at the same time offering up their devotions to demons, animals, and the very produce of the earth.

In addition to the Supreme Being, who is worshipped as the creator and ruler of heaven and earth, the Ceylonese have a number of inferior deities,* who,

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* It is a lamentable fact, that we need not travel to Ceylon for an exemplification of this confusion of ideas relative to divine worship, when all of our own benighted Roman Catholic countrymen, *professing* to receive and worship only the Blessed Trinity, furnish us with an example (too fearfully striking to be steadily contemplated) of what man, wandering from the pure light of Divine revalation, can do, when he gives the highest kind of Divine worship to A WAFER, and inferior worship, (as they themselves express it) like the Ceylonese, to "Demons," or subordinate deities.

according to their belief, watch over them. The good are supposed to be the souls of good men, while the evil deities are looked upon as the spirits of the wicked, and both are understood to act under the order of the Almighty. The next in dignity to the Supreme is the god Buddou, the saviour of souls. Buddou, according to the most general tradition, was originally the spirit of a good man, who was sent to revisit the earth. After having performed a prodigious number of virtuous actions, and being transformed into one hundred and ninety-nine different shapes, he re-ascended to heaven. The introduction of the worship of Buddou into Ceylon is fixed at about forty years after the Christian era. In various parts of the island, many images of this god are found, which, by their extraordinary size, shew the great veneration in which he is held. In a temple dedicated to him at Calam, six miles from Columbo, he is represented in a sitting posture, the right hand supporting the left, and the right leg in the same manner supporting the other; the head of the image is large, and ornamented by a tiara or crown; the face is brown, and the hair like that of a negro. A table is placed before the image, on which the offerings of those who visit the god are deposited, which consist chiefly of money, flowers, fruit, rice, &c.; no animals are allowed to be sacrificed. A lamp, continually burning, is placed in the middle of the table, and a curtain is drawn to keep the idol from

profane eyes. In a recess on each side of the door is placed a large figure, with a club in its hands, to guard the abode of the god; and two others about six feet in height, are stationed in an under apartment to wait upon him. A large elephant's tooth—an offering from the King of Kandy—is placed before Buddou, accompanied by an elephant of brass, and a driver of the same metal. Huts are placed around the temple for the accommodation of the priests, who officiate in turn; some of them are always required to be in attendance in the temple, to receive the offerings, which they apply to their own use. It is alleged that Buddou is worshipped in Pegu, and several other parts of the continent, as the deity of the moon.

The temples dedicated to the inferior gods are mean, and the priests who attend them enjoy but a small degree of respect in comparison to the others; they keep continually moving through the island, and live well on the contributions they wring from the hands of a truly superstitious people. The time of sickness is their principal harvest. It is usual for a Ceylonese, when he is apprehensive of danger from illness, to devote a cock to the devil, or evil spirit, whom he supposes to be the cause of his torment. The animal is left at home to fatten till the priests find it convenient to dedicate him at the covel or temple. It is not unusual to see the priest going from village to village to collect the dedicated cocks for the occasion, which often amount to the number of seven or eight dozen a-day.

No people can be more superstitious than the Ceylonese. The frequency of thunder storms they consider as a proof that their island is abandoned to the dominion of devils, and recollect with melancholy retrospections, that this fatal spot, being the seat of Paradise, was once inhabited by Adam. Even our countryman, Mr. King, was influenced by the prevailing superstition, and asserted in his narrative, that he had heard in Ceylon a devil crying with a voice like the barking of a dog.

The most remarkable and highest mountain, is Hammallel, or Adam's Peak, situated about forty miles N.E. of Columbo, from the summit of which, according to tradition, Adam took his last view of Paradise. The impression of his foot is still supposed to remain, the print is of a more than ordinary sized man's foot; after taking his farewell view, the father of mankind, according to the same tradition, passed over to the continent of India, which at that time joined the island; but no sooner had he crossed Adam's Bridge, than the sea closed behind him and cut off all hope of return.

The Ceylonese make pilgrimages at certain periods of the year to Adam's Peak, whither they repair to worship the god Buddou. They seem, however, more inclined to hold their great festival under the shade of the bogha tree, which stands at Anuarodgburrow, an ancient city in the northern part of the

King of Kandy's dominions—none but the King's subjects are permitted to approach this sanctuary.

The bogha tree, says tradition, suddenly flew over from some distant country, and planted itself on the spot in which it now stands—it was intended to be a shade for the god; and under its branches he was wont to repose, while he sojourned on earth. Near this hallowed place ninety kings are interred.

The marriage ceremony, (which, among nations possessed of stricter ideas of purity, is justly looked upon with a degree of veneration), is a matter of very small consequence among the Ceylonese, and seems only to be attended to for the purpose of entitling the parties to share each others goods and give the relations an opportunity of observing that they have married into their own caste.

The marriages are often contracted by the parents while the parties are as yet in a state of childhood, merely with a view to match them according to their rank, and are sometimes dissolved afterwards by mutual consent.

It is also customary for those who intend to marry, previously to make a trial of each others temper, and if they do not agree, they break off without the interference of the priest, or any further ceremony; this does not prevent either of the parties forming a new connexion. After the parties agree to marry, the man presents his bride with the wedding clothes, which

consist of a piece of silk or cloth, to tie round the waist, and this is the only clothing usually worn.

A day being appointed for the celebration of the marriage, he repairs, accompanied by his relations, to her house, bearing with them whatever they are able to contribute to the marriage festival. The bride and bridegroom, in the presence of this assembly, eat out of the same dish; thus denoting that they are of equal rank; their thumbs are then tied together, and the ceremony concludes by the nearest relation, or the priest, cutting them asunder; this, however, is not considered a binding ceremony, and is indeed scarcely ever looked upon in that light. When it is thought desirable to make the marriage firm and indissoluble, the parties are joined together face to face, with a large piece of cloth folded several times round their bodies; water is then poured between them by the priest; the night is passed at the bride's, and in the morning the parties repair to the bridegroom's. On this occasion a strange custom is observed—the wife is obliged to walk before the husband, and not leave his sight by the way. Tradition accounts for this practice by asserting that a man on a similar occasion having walked foremost, his wife was carried off, to his great dismay.

Owing to early marriages, which often take place at eleven years of age, the women soon lose the appearance of youth, and at twenty, look old and haggard. The climate, too, greatly conduces to this effect.

The Ceylonese live in small huts built of clay—their furniture consists of a few earthen pots, a stool, and a cane mat, spread on the floor, on which all the family repose.

The curiosities of Ceylon are many. I saw several inscriptions on the rocks close to the town, which must be very ancient, as none of the present inhabitants could interpret them.

The tallipot tree is very remarkable—it grows straight and tall—its leaves are large enough to cover twelve or fourteen men; they are round, and folded up like a fan; many of the natives, when they travel, wear a piece of them on their heads as a shade from the sun. Soldiers have been known to use them as tents.

CHAP. V.

Produce of Ceylon—Anecdotes of the Elephant—The Pearl Fishery—Departure from Columbo.

Ceylon, though not the largest, is thought to be the richest and finest island in the world. The natives call it, with some reason, the terrestrial paradise. Its produce is pepper, cotton, tobacco, iron, steel, copper, gold, silver, lead, ivory, ebony, musk, crystal, saltpetre, sulphur, cinnamon, and all kinds of precious stones, except diamonds. It may be here proper to observe that the cinnamon tree, the principal commodity of the island, has two, if not three, barks, which form the true cinnamon; the tree of a middle growth and age affords the best spice, and its body, when stripped, serves for building and other uses.

Fruit is here in the greatest plenty, and all kinds of fowl and fish.

Ceylon affords many curious animals peculiar to itself: the Ceylon elephant is preferred to all others, especially if spotted. Many surprising anecdotes are upon record of this half-reasoning animal, but the following is an extraordinary fact, the truth of which is established by the testimony of a large body of men:—Among the elephants which went to Madras,

in the year 1781, under the command of the late Colonel Pearse, there was one from whom the keeper had frequently pilfered his usual allowance of arrack; upon every such occasion the elephant betrayed evident signs of anger and resentment, as if he was neither insensible to the negligence, nor ignorant of the malpractices, of his keeper; as the noble minded animal continued but to threaten, the fellow became more negligent, till at length he wholly disregarded him. One morning the cattle being ordered to be mustered for review, when the commanding officer, in going along the lines, passed in front of the elephant, the animal roared as if to attract attention, and perceiving that the eye of the colonel was directed towards him, immediately laid hold of the keeper with his proboscis, put him under his feet, and instantly crushed him to death; he then fell upon his knees and salamed to the colonel for pardon. The singularity of the act induced Colonel Pearse to make an immediate enquiry respecting the circumstance, when he discovered that the elephant had been forced, contrary to his natural disposition, to inflict this punishment on his keeper, for the incorrigible neglect he was prone to commit, and the fraud he had so long practiced on his daily allowance of strong drink.

The following circumstance occurred during our stay at Columbo:—There was an elephant in the neighbourhood which committed several outrages, and

was the terror of the natives, many of whom he had killed. In vain they endeavoured to shoot him, until Captain King, aid-de-camp to the governor, projected a plan for his destruction. The captain, accompanied by two black men, and armed with a good rifle, went into the jungle where the elephant usually resorted, and had not penetrated far when the animal was seen approaching, to the great terror of the black men, who took refuge in a tree. Captain King, with undaunted coolness, awaited his approach, kneeling on one knee, until the animal was within three or four yards of him, when, having taken a steady aim, he shot the elephant in the eye, and killed him, to the great joy of the blacks who were looking on. The captain, on seeing the elephant about to fall, was obliged to throw himself back, so as to escape being crushed to death by his ponderous and vanquished enemy. The inhabitants of the neighbourhood were greatly rejoiced on this occasion.

The well known pearl fishery of this island affords the chief revenue. The time for fishing is about thirty-one days, beginning at the middle of February. The boats, supplied by the merchants, are also limited in number—the following is the method employed in procuring those riches :—At ten o'clock, p. m., a gun is fired as a signal, when the boats set sail from Condatchy, with the land wind, under the direction of a pilot ; they generally reach the bank by sun rise, and

continue diving till the sea breeze sets in, with which they return. The moment they heave in sight, the colours are hoisted at the flag-staff, and in the afternoon they come to an anchor, so that the owners of the boats are enabled to get their cargo out before night, which may amount to thirty thousand oysters, if the divers are active and successful; each boat carries twenty-one men and five heavy diving stones for the use of the ten divers, who are called kooly karer; the rest of the crew consists of a head boatman and ten rowers, who assist in lifting up the divers and their shells. The diving-stone is a piece of granite a foot long, six inches thick, and of a pyramidical shape; it is about thirty pounds weight, and has a hair rope passed through the apex. The diving is not attended with so much difficulty as people generally imagine. The divers consist of different castes and religions; they neither make their bodies smooth with oil, nor do they stop their ears, mouth, or nose, with any thing to prevent the entrance of the salt water. According to the injunctions of the shark-conjurors, they use no food while at work, and continue fasting until, having returned on shore, they bathe themselves in fresh water. Being accustomed to dive from their infancy, they descend to the bottom, from five to ten fathoms deep, in search of treasure. A diving stone and net are fastened to each boat by two ropes; the diver,

putting the toes of his right foot on the hair rope of the diving stone, and those of his left on the net, seizes the two cords with one hand, and shutting his nostrils with the other, plunges into the water. On reaching the bottom he hangs the net round his neck, and collects into it the pearl shells as fast as possible during the time he finds himself able to remain under water, which is usually about two minutes; he then resumes his former posture, and, making a signal by pulling the cord, he is immediately lifted into the boat, and, on emerging from the sea, discharges a quantity of water from his mouth and nose, and sometimes even blood, which does not prevent him from diving again in turn. When the first five divers come up, and while they are respiring, the other five descend with the same stones; each brings up about a hundred oysters in the net, and if not interrupted by any accident, makes about fifty trips; they, and the boat's crew, are generally rewarded with about a fourth of the oysters when they go on shore. The most skilful divers, from the Malabar coast, are able to dive without the stones, and for a reward, often remain under water for the space of five minutes; they entertain the greatest dread of the shark, and will not descend on any account until the conjurors (or priests) who are supported by the government for the purpose, have performed their ceremonies. The enchantment consists

of a number of unintelligible prayers, which are committed to memory; the conjuror stands on the sea shore from sun rise to sun set awaiting the return of the boat, and muttering his unknown jargon, during which period he is obliged to abstain from food and sleep, otherwise his prayers would have no avail.

Sometimes the conjurors accompany the divers in the boats, which pleases the crew very much; nevertheless, I was told that in one of these fisheries a man had lost his leg by a shark, and when the head conjuror was called upon to account for the accident, he replied that an old witch had just come from the Coast of Coromandel, who, from envy, had caused the disaster by a counter conjuration, which made fruitless his skill, and of which he was informed too late. The conjuror (according to their report) afterwards proved his superiority so effectually, that, although the sharks appeared in the midst of the divers, yet they were unable to open their mouths.

Whenever a shark is seen, the diver immediately makes a signal, on which occasion all the boats instantly return. A diver, who trod on an oyster and was somewhat wounded, thought he was bitten by a shark, and consequently made the signal, which caused all the boats to return; for this mistake he was afterwards severely punished.

The harbour of Columbo affords shelter to very small vessels; anchorage in the Roads is safe only

from December till April. The inclement season, occasioned by the change of the monsoon having set in, we did not consider it prudent to remain longer, and on the 13th of April took our departure.

CHAP. VI.

Arrival at Madras—Dress and Salutation of the Natives—Office of Dubash Major—Exorbitancy of Charges—The Surf at Madras—Wreck of the Dover—Masolah and Katamaran Boats—Account of the Shark.

26th April—On the evening of this day anchored in Madras Roads, and found his Majesty's ship, Owen Glendower, bearing the flag of Admiral Sir S. Hood, lying here. The evening being far advanced before we came to anchor, we had no communication with the shore except the landing of dispatches.

27th.—Day had hardly made its appearance when we were surrounded by boats crowded with natives, who flocked on board; they were of every trade—tailors, shoemakers, dubashes, merchants, &c. On ascending the deck, I was instantly struck with amazement at the dresses of the natives, who wore long pieces of muslin passed round their bodies several times and carelessly thrown over their shoulder; their black faces were adorned with red, white, or yellow paint, according to their caste, large gold earrings, and white turbans added greatly to the singularity of their appearance. The first salutation we received from them was so low a bow, that they touched their foreheads with the palms, and the deck with the backs, of their hands.

This salutation repeated three times, is called a grand salam, and considered the greatest compliment. They then produced their certificates, and the person having the best character was selected as dubash major, who is answerable for the conduct of the people. He recommends tailors, shoemakers, washermen, &c., &c. The dubash major enters into conversation relative to business, produces every article required, and pays all bills, for which he gets his agency, taking care that no person imposes or cheats, as this is a privilege he reserves for himself, and his extortion is not considered unjust. Their charges are generally so exorbitant, that the usual way of settling accounts is to multiply by three and divide by five, and with this method of payment they are perfectly content.

The people are diligently attentive to every order given them, and are always uncommonly polite and respectful—their manners are mild and tranquil.

Madras, or Fort St. George, (called by the natives China Patam) lies on the coast of Coromandel, in 13° 15″ north latitude, 80° 32″ east longitude. Writers differ much as to the period it was first colonised; some assert that 1640 was the time; it was enlarged in the reign of Charles II.—taken by the French in 1764, and restored by the treaty of Aixlachapell.

The approach to Madras from sea is truly gratifying and picturesque, as it is a regular, handsome, and well built town, close to the sea. The houses are white,

owing to the covering of chanum which is very compact, and when well laid on, bears as high a polish as the finest marble. The houses are all flat roofed, and have long and beautiful colonnades with open porticoes—the finest have Venetian blinds—every method is taken to cause a free circulation of air. The surf at Madras is, perhaps, the highest (where a landing is made) in the world; it breaks at a great distance from the beach, which renders it more awful and terrifying. The surf is sometimes formed by a single range along the shore; at other times there is a succession of two, three, four, or more ranges, extending perhaps a mile or upwards out to sea. The number of ranges is generally in proportion to the height of the surf; their force is extremely great, and they have been known to upset a ship of five hundred tons burden in such a manner that the tops of the masts have stuck in the sand, and the lower ends have made their appearance through the bottom. His Majesty's ships Dover and Chichester were wrecked here in May, 1810. The quarter deck of the Dover, where all hands were assembled, was, by the force of the waves, torn from the other parts of the ship. One surf drove it upwards of sixty yards high and dry, while another knocked the remaining part of the ship to atoms. The crew, being thus washed on shore, was miraculously saved by the gracious interposition of Providence.

The surf, which is very violent all along the coast

of Coromandel, as well as at Madras, is more uniformly impetuous at the monsoon than at any other time, and begins to assume its form at a distance from the place where it breaks, gradually accumulating as it moves forward, until it gains a height of about forty-five or fifty feet, when, being overcharged at the top, it falls like a cascade, nearly perpendicular, involving itself as it descends; the noise made by the fall may be heard, the night being still, at the distance of about ten miles. Countries where the surf prevails require boats of a particular construction, and the art of managing them demands the experience of a man's life. When landing at Madras we were conveyed in one of our own boats to the back of the surf, where we let go a grappling; from thence we were taken by a country boat, called a masolah, and attended by the katamarans. The katamaran is supplied for the purpose, that if the masolah be dashed in pieces, the crew and passengers may be saved by its timely aid.

The men of the katamaran are always handsomely rewarded—many of them have medals for their great exertions and humanity in saving lives. On approaching the surf in the masolah boat, they wait for a heavy sea, into which they immediately dash, and are carried high and dry on shore. The construction of the masolah boat is of the most extraordinary nature, apparently not at all adapted to elude the shock of the surf, being remarkably slight and pliable, nevertheless

they can encounter the heaviest sea. When they do not take the opportunity of a surf sufficiently powerful to drive them on shore, they strike the ground, and the following billow towering over them, causes inevitable destruction; they are flat-bottomed—formed without a keel, and built of bamboo—in height about six feet, and in length thirty or forty; they are sewed together with the fibres of the cocoa-nut tree, have no ballast, and with sixteen or eighteen people, do not draw more than four or five inches of water; they are managed by the natives, and the safety of the boat depends on the cockswain, who serves an apprenticeship of twenty-one years before he attains the situation; the first seven years of his servitude are employed in baling the boat, and the remainder in rowing. The katamaran merely consists of three rafts lashed together, about fourteen feet long, and paddled by two men—no sea can capsize it—but the men are frequently washed off; however, owing to their great dexterity, they generally succeed in getting on it again, and are scarcely ever lost, except when (their feet being overboard) a shark takes them off, an instance of which occurred while we were here. If a man happens to fall into the sea, there is no possibility of saving him, the sharks are so very numerous. I caught one of a prodigious size, measuring about twenty-five feet in length, with a large hook fastened to a chain and secured to the main brace. The bait was a four pound piece of salt junk.

Upwards of one hundred men were employed in getting him on board; he flounced about the deck, and obliged us to keep aloof. We killed this immense monster with boarding pikes and tommahawks. We found a child about four years old, and the under part of a man in his belly.*

The shark has, according to his age, from two to six rows of triangular-formed teeth amounting to about one hundred and seventy, and capable of erection or depression, owing to a peculiar mechanism in the gums. The under jaw is an obstruction to his easily seizing the victim, and to this, along with the necessity of turning on his side when about to seize on his prey, is, humanly speaking, to be ascribed the preservation of the other fish, who would otherwise be inevitably devoured by this monster; only for this kind provision of Providence, the ocean would soon be depopulated of its inhabitants, and the shark would reign alone in the territories of the deep. The following fact is a proof of the timidity of this fish:—One of our men fell over board from the fore chains, and was instantly seized by a shark, who cut him in two. A seaman, named Campbell, on seeing the shark turning for the purpose of laying hold on the man,

* The jaws of the shark are at present in the possession of a lady in Dublin; when fresh and elastic, they were capable of admitting the largest man without the slightest inconvenience.

with surprising boldness plunged into the water, the noise and splash had the effect of driving the shark away, and caused him to leave half of his victim behind.

CHAP. VII.

Description of the Neighbourhood of Madras—The Banyan Tree—Religion and Customs of the Brahmins—Severe Penances of the Hindoos.

THE country round Madras is delightful; the fields are fertile, and clothed with a profusion of productions. The beautiful tops of groves—the numerous country seats and gardens, present to the eye one continued change of gratification; nothing can be more pleasant than a ride in the cool of the evening. The country for some miles round is flat, the roads in many places intersecting, have the appearance of broad walks in a shady garden, and afford an agreeable shelter to the traveller, few places being so exposed as to permit the noon-day sun to enter it. The delightful refreshment and rest those roads afford, can only be conceived by those who have experienced the heat of a tropical clime. To the parched and weary traveller, those grateful refreshments are inconceivable—the pasturage, the limpid streams, the cooling shade, and birds of various kinds warbling from tree to tree, render the place a pleasing retreat from the town exposed to the burning sun, and from the turmoil of business. About two miles from the town, the banyan tree flourishes in great luxuriance; it is very beautiful,

and has the property of extending its branches to a great distance; it drops lifeless fibres to the ground, which take root, grow thick, and uphold the horizontal branches; they also, by another growth, compose a second stem, from which other beautiful and extended branches again grow, drop down, take root in the earth, and so continue to form beautiful trees in regular succession; beneath the branches are pleasing walks which furnish a cooling retreat from the heat of the sun; it is supposed that thousands of people can be sheltered beneath it; the leaves of the tree are large and soft; it produces a kind of fig, which affords food to monkeys and birds. To a person walking in those cooling retreats, the scene appears very enlivening, owing to the quantity of birds that frequent them, which delight the ear with their warbling notes. The natives look upon those trees with a degree of veneration, being struck with the singularity of their growth and the beauty of their appearance. The Brahmins often perform their devotions under their shade, when a more suitable place is not convenient. In short, India altogether abounds with valuable trees, which produce delicious and useful fruit in the greatest plenty.

As the religious habits and customs of all countries differ widely from each other, and as the idolatrous and barbarous practices of Indians are very extraordinary, it may be gratifying here to notice those of the tribes of Madras, some of which came under my immediate eye:—

The Hindoos have four castes—the Brahmins, who attend to the concerns of religion; the Rajas, who include princes as well as soldiers; the Vaisyas, or agriculturists, and the Sudras, who form the lowest caste. There are, however, mixed classes, arising from intermarriages and other causes; persons in this state are despised, and obliged to separate from the body of the people. Those who have lost their caste are called Pariahs, and are held in the greatest abhorrence by all those who have conformed strictly to religious customs; they are obliged to bury the dead, perform the functions of executioners, and are considered polluted, and capable of polluting anything they may happen to touch. These divisions, it is said, have been maintained with great strictness from the remotest antiquity. The most worthy of notice are the Brahmins. I visited several of their temples, some of which were constructed of boughs of trees, and decorated with various flowers. In their most elegant temples there are figures curiously executed, which appear like monsters; and have separate priests. I was not permitted to enter any of them, but could discern the priests from the door. There are various degrees of excellence amongst the Brahmins, which are held sacred by the rest in proportion to their exaltation; many of them are convinced that the religion they profess is unreasonable and false, but while they laugh at the idolatry of the multitude, inconsistently adopt the expediency system

of working upon the ignorance of the people. The generality of the Brahmins are as ignorant as the laity, and, for the most part, an innocent, though superstitious people, especially those who do not engage in the turmoil and business of life. On the contrary, the worldlings are generally the worst of all, for, being fully convinced that the water of the Ganges is sufficient to wash away all defilement, and being uncontrolled by the rigour of the laws of their religion, they run into great excesses. The jurisdiction of the Brahmin religion extends to almost the minutest particulars of life—to those things which, in other countries, are regulated by the law of the land. The customs of society, taste, and fashion; the mode of dress, food, circumstances of every-day occurrence, and marriages, &c., are regulated by religion.

Their worship oftentimes consists of the most disgusting practices, and the images, the objects of their adoration, are very frequently most indecently formed. How true is the declaration of the apostle, that for as much as the Heathen "did not like to retain God in their knowledge," and resisted the evidence of "his eternal power and godhead," the Lord hath given them "over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient."

The food of the Hindoos is simple, and consists generally of rice, gee, milk and vegetables. Many of them refuse to eat fish, or animal food, as they believe

in the transmigration of the soul, and hence are much afflicted at beholding even the death of a fly, though caused perhaps by accident. Milk is believed to be the purest food, as it partakes, according to their belief, of the nectar of their deities, as also, because the cow is worshipped as a divinity.

The people are rather simple in their manners, and look for happiness chiefly in the comforts of domestic life.

Matrimony is not only esteemed holy, but also considered as a duty imperative upon every man, and only to be overlooked by those who separate themselves from the world. While fidelity in wives is but rare in other countries, it has been generally granted that the Hindoo women are remarkable for their care of, and love towards, their husbands and families. Although indolence is a characteristic of these people, and though many blemishes taint their character, yet they would be, on the whole, an ornament to humanity, if delivered from the thraldom and abominations of Hindooism, and influenced by the blessed truths of the Gospel. Loud is the call for missionary exertion among those poor, benighted Indians.

The custom of women destroying their infants is practised still, and affords a remarkable proof of the fallen and corrupt state of the heart of man—once pure and holy. When the mother's affections can be so steeled as to sacrifice her helpless babe, surely it is

the duty of every Christian to contribute towards the sending forth men, taught of God, to preach amongst the heathen the unsearchable riches of Christ—that blessed Gospel which extends to the regulation of not only the outward walk and conversation, but also to that of the inward thoughts of the heart.

The custom of women burning themselves on the decease of their husbands, is still practised in many parts of India. In the Carnatic, it is asserted that they dig a pit, in which they deposit a large quantity of combustible matter, for the purpose of consuming the body of the deceased, together with that of the widow, who throws herself into the flames. In the code of Gentoo laws, translated by Mr. Halhead, we find the following passage :—

" It is proper for a woman to burn herself after her husband's death in the fire with the corpse—every woman who thus burns herself shall remain in Paradise with her husband, upwards of fifty lacks of years, by destiny; if she cannot burn, she must in that case preserve an inviolable chastity; if she remains always chaste, she goes to Paradise, and if she does not preserve her chastity, she goes to hell."

The penances and satisfactions used to purge away sins are indeed most severe. Human sacrifices are made at stated times in the river Ganges, to which the votaries of superstition and error repair in great numbers, and plunge into the stream, (which is

supposed to possess a cleansing efficacy,) and almost inevitably perish. If any of them should happen to escape a watry grave, they usually crawl into the neighbouring jungle, and become a prey to the tigers which inhabit it in great multitudes. This river is venerated by the Hindoos, and supposed to flow from heaven; the natives swear by its holy waters, and drink it for the attainment of temporal as well as spiritual blessings. Many efforts have been made by the English to prevent those sacrifices; guards have been stationed on several parts of the river, but have not succeeded in putting a stop to those abominable practices.

I saw a man in the streets of Madras performing a most rigorous penance; he had just travelled over an immense extent of country, quite naked, and was, when I met him in the streets, beating himself most cruelly with a large bar of iron about three inches in circumference, and three feet long. The blows which he dealt upon his person with this instrument were indeed most distressing. Many of those deluded devotees undertake (bound by a vow) to remain in one posture, to drag a weighty chain, or carry an immense load. Some crawl on their bare knees around an extensive region, and others roll their lacerated and tortured bodies on the ground for an immense distance, and endeavour to collect as much money as will enable them to build a temple, or attain to religious advantages,

which they believe can be procured by the aid of money. These, along with many other austere and rigorous practices, such as swinging before a slow fire until life ceases to exist; the suspension of the body over furious flames with the head downwards; devotion to death by surfeiting the stomach with food; walking for great distances with shoes stuck with a kind of spike; holding the arm over the head for a number of years without letting it down, until at length it cannot be restored to its natural use; the shutting of the hands until the nails grow into the flesh and appear at the back; the wearing of an immense iron instrument without ever lying down; the destruction of the Jugurnaut car at a public festival, compose the means by which the Hindoo hopes to atone for sin. The penance of the Jugurnaut car is the most remarkable of all. Thousands of pilgrims from many parts of India assemble at the festival of Rutt Jattra, and are led to believe that if they die within twelve miles of the temple, they immediately go to heaven. The car is dragged along by thousands of people, who set up a most hideous yell, which strikes upon the ear terrifically. Many of the devotees throw themselves before it, and are immediately crushed to atoms. This, along with the deaths occasioned by fatigue and other means, causes the road where the car has passed to be covered with mutilated carcases. I have seen the people perform a most painful penance in order

to regain their caste, which may have been lost by having had communication with people of different castes, (which is considered a defilement), or by eating forbidden things; persons in this state are held in abhorrence by those of their own castes, and debarred from all social intercourse. From this state of pollution, purification is only possible by paying a large sum of money, or by undergoing a most torturing penance, called the swinging for the caste. How manifest it is that the possibility of man's atoning for sin, by his own satisfaction, is the offspring of carnality—of fallen humanity. The gospel, which sets at nought the wisdom of this world, points to the sufferings of the cross, and the propitiation of Jesus, as the sinner's sole refuge from the wrath to come.

The swinging for the caste is a most extraordinary penance. A very high post is planted in the ground, on the top of which a beam is placed crossways, which turns round on a pivot; ropes and pullies are arranged so as to hoist up the devotee—the victim of a base superstition; he is led forth surrounded by a number of people, some of whom dance before him, and, while going thrice round the post, the multitude set up a deafening shout, which, together with the wild strains of music, has a terrific effect. Meanwhile they slay a sheep, with the view of sprinkling its blood, of miraculous efficacy, on the frantic multitude, who anxiously hope that it may fall on each of them; the

blood is believed to be an antidote against barrenness, as also the giver of other blessings. As it may be naturally expected, barren women in particular press forward, that they may be the happy recipients even of a drop, assured that with its possession the cause of their matrimonial grief will vanish, and that they will be no longer without a little one to cheer their solitary hours, and be a father's pride. Their anxiety may easily be imagined, as a little offspring is as loved an object to the poor Hindoo as to the European, though blessed with greater light.

With a view to secure the efficiency of the blood, fraught with charms, they work themselves up into a religious frenzy; shrieking most awfully; tearing their hair, and jumping about in a ridiculous manner. After the sheep has been sacrificed, and the long wished for blood sprinkled upon the gazing and frenzied mob, the poor sufferer is placed upon his abdomen on the ground, and two large and sharp hooks hanging from the post are inserted in the fleshy part of his back, under the shoulder; which operation is in itself enough to cause excruciating pain. Other ropes having been placed under his breast and across his thighs, so as to sustain the weight of the body, the sufferer is hauled up to the cross beam by ropes and pullies, and in this most painful and agonising condition, hangs often without a murmur, believing that by the endurance of such torment he will regain his caste, and be restored to

those temporal and religious blessings which he lost by his own disobedience to the laws of his religious system. Not content with the torture of such a suspension, but wishing to render the ceremony as painful as possible, the culprit, still suspended, is drawn round the post three times, by which the suffering is increased, and the satisfaction thus rendered the more efficacious; he repeats a certain number of prayers, and throws among the crowd flowers, which are considered sacred relics, and provided for the occasion; these are looked upon as the happy means of averting all sickness and misfortune from the possessor. The mob eagerly contend for the flowers, and each one strains every nerve to become the happy master of that which he believes to be the cause of prosperity and the averter of evil.

The custom of swinging for the caste is of frequent occurrence. How degrading* are the ceremonies of

* The degrading superstition of the Heathen is sufficient to cause the mind to shudder; yet when we look to our own benighted country, Ireland, surely we have even greater need to mourn. The adoration of images, invocation of saints and angels, the worship of a wafer god, the sacrifice of the mass, purgatory and penances, &c., as taught and believed by the Romish church, lower Ireland to the level of the Heathen. What can be more absurd than the creation, manducation, and digestion of a god? So debasing a doctrine cannot be found among the worst foreign superstitions. The reader must be at once struck by the similarity existing between the penances of the Heathen and those of our Roman Catholic brethren. The lives of the so called saints are sufficient to attest this; the following is a specimen of the virtues of Alphonso Maria, of Liguria, as related by a cardinal:—

the poor Heathen—how awful is the state of those who do not enjoy the blessings of revelation? Oh, happy day, when the Son of Righteousness, arising with healing on his wings, shall dispel all the mists of error and superstition—when the Heathen shall cease to trust in penances, and having cast his idols to the moles and bats, will acknowledge the blood of Christ, which "cleanseth from all sin," as the only ground of the sinner's confidence with God. May the happy period soon arrive, when righteousness shall cover the earth, even as the waters cover the sea, and the whole human

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"I know for certainty that this servant of God constantly scourged himself unbloodily and bloodily, and besides the unbloody scourgings enjoined by his rule, he was wont to punish himself every day in the morning, before the usual hours of rising, and in the evening, after the signal for repose. On Saturdays, he scourged himself until the blood flowed..... I know that this servant of God macerated his body also with hair-cloth with sharp points in it, and with chains as well on the arms as on the legs, which he carried with him till dinner time, and these for the most part were so armed with sharp points, that they filled with horror all who ever saw him. I have heard it said also, that he had a dress filled with a coat-of-mail with iron points; that he had bandages of camel's hair; and other instruments of penance were casually seen by me, and by others of my companions, notwithstanding his zealous and circumspect secrecy. Of a similar kind was his extreme mortification in sleeping upon two planks covered with a sack, with a little straw in it, so that it appeared a hard stone. I frequently also heard that he slept during his few hours with a large stone hung on, and tied to his feet. I well remember that he never shaved himself, when he was with us, with a razor, but only by little and little, he did it with pincers, and he caused his assistant friar to make his clerical crown with the same pincers."

family join in ascriptions of praise to Him who hath washed us from our sins in his own blood.

"When o'er our ransomed nature,
The Lamb for sinners slain—
Redeemer, King, Creator,
Returns in bliss to reign."

The chief amusement of the natives is the pomera, or evening dance; the usual time selected for its performance is the cool of the evening, when a number of females attend in their best clothing for the occasion. I have constantly witnessed this amusement performed

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This man was canonized in the year 1830. The fearful penances of Lough Dearg are well known; the following is an extract taken from the account of an eye witness, and given in the year 1834:—

"The penances consist of constant prayer, fasting, and want of sleep. Before leaving the island, every pilgrim must remain twenty-four hours in prison, as they call it. Here they neither eat, drink, nor sleep, nor is even the renovating wine allowed during the twenty-four hours, and means are also taken to prevent those in prison from sleeping. A person is appointed for this purpose, but I was assured that the office of keeping each other awake is generally kindly performed, from the best motives, I dare say, for the whole efficacy of the penance is nullified by the indulgence of sleep.

"The penance of praying around the saints' beds is also practiced. There are little circular stone walls, with stones and crosses inside, which are called saints' beds, and around these, on their knees, the pilgrims perform their stations, repeating at certain spots a certain number of prayers. I inquired whether these revolutions were performed on the bare knees, and the answer was, that this depended upon circumstances. The sum exacted from the pilgrims, for all the comforts of St. Patrick's purgatory, including wine, amounts to one shilling and four pence half-penny, of which six pence half-penny is paid for the

in the open air by great numbers. I am tempted here to give some idea of their dress on this occasion:—

Their heads are adorned with a variety of flowers, gracefully settled and intermixed with beads, combs, and sharks' teeth, while their hair tastefully platted and oiled with the cocoa nut oil, present a fine gloss; a large cloth edged with gold is usually worn about the waist, as a substitute for a petticoat; a piece of silk, with broad embroidery, fastened round the bosom, covers their breasts, but does not fall sufficiently low to prevent their being exposed; several tassels of gold and

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ferry. If, however, the penitent chooses, there is nothing to prevent him being generous, and it is not improbable that his generosity may be accepted. Every pilgrim who is a candidate for the benefits of Lough Dearg, must bring with him a recommendation from the parish priest. I inquired particularly whether the priest encouraged the pilgrimage or dissuaded from it. The answer was, that he sometimes enjoined it, but most commonly does not influence the applicant one way or another.

"It is evident the country priest has no interest in recommending the pilgrimage, since the absence of his parishioners, and the expense of the pilgrimage, will diminish rather than increase his revenue. In returning from the island, the same scene was acted as I had witnessed before. I returned with a freight of pilgrims, whose time had expired, and although it was then afternoon, another boatload was still waiting their turn. I walked back to Pettigo in company with several pilgrims, among whom was a priest, who told me he had come eighty miles to the station, and that he found himself much the better of the discipline. He told me also, that whatever the weather might be, no one ever caught cold; and that he never knew of any one

silk, hanging gracefully, greatly add to the ornament of their dress; but what is considered by them the greatest addition to beauty, is the ring which hangs from the nose, and this cannot be less than eight inches in circumference; their fingers are generally crowded with rings, and also their ancles; they wear a great number of bells, which are thought a great addition to music; their dances are not various, they keep exact time with one another, observing a regular motion of

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suffering from sitting on the damp ground for days, in wet clothes, and with bare feet. I ought to mention that many of the returning pilgrims were walking with us and listening to the priest's exordium. There were three or four other priests performing their stations on the island; I suppose it is thought necessary that the station should occasionally be so honoured. When I reached Pettigo I invited my companion, the pilgrim priest, to take part of a leg of mutton which I had bespoken for dinner; but he excused himself on the ground of his vow, which did not permit him to eat till next day. I only remained an hour at Pettigo, and then proceeded on my journey to Donegal."

It is easy to account for the similarity between popery and heathenism; they are both only different modifications of the same religion—the religion of fallen nature, as contradistinguished from the revelation of God. In fact popery is not only the religion of human nature, but of the adversary, who, while men slept, sowed the tares and took away the seed of everlasting life. Rome, once the church of God, once holy, but now apostate, has fallen from her first love by the devices of Satan; by a departure from the Word of God—the only rule of faith and practice; and by a conformity to the practices of the heathen nations. May her deluded children soon lay aside her impositions and crimes, and turn unto him who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me."

the hands and feet; this amusement is generally performed by torch light, in the street.

Notwithstanding our stay here was somewhat considerable, and in the hottest season of the year, yet we had not a sick man in the ship; health smiled in the faces of all on board, but alas, it was not of long duration.

CHAP. VIII.

Arrival at Java—Chinese Junks—Climate of Java, and Causes of its Insalubrity—Manners and Customs of the Dutch and English—The Treatment of the Ladies by their Husbands.

28th May.—We received orders to get six months' provisions, and to proceed with all possible dispatch for the island of Java, the well known grave of Europeans. This unwelcome news was received with great dejection by the ship's company, as may naturally be supposed.

6th June.—Weighed, and directed our course to the south-east; every effort was used by the officers to dispel the gloom that very visibly hung over the crew. The evenings were employed in dancing and other frivolous amusements, which afforded but a poor solace to drooping spirits. We had not been many days at sea before dysentery made its appearance, and after crossing the line it increased to an alarming extent.

1st July—We passed close to Christmas Island, which lies to the westward of Java, and is uninhabited.

2d—Made Java Head, and being favoured with a strong breeze, soon got into the straits of Sunda; we kept close to the shore for a considerable distance in the hope of getting refreshments for the sick at some village; in this we were disappointed; for nothing

presented itself but one wild range of wood, which had the appearance of never being visited by man; no house or cultivation could be seen. The evening was calm, but owing to the rapidity of the current we were obliged to come to an anchor, within a quarter of a mile of the shore. The night was still, and had the most beautiful appearance; the birds and wild inhabitants of the wood were distinctly heard in the ship; the stars had lighted up their twinkling lamps, and the fair empress of the night was just stepping into her refulgent car, and shading the universal landscape below with her silver rays, when struck with the surrounding scene, the following beautiful lines of the poet came with power to my mind:—

> "And when the moon, refulgent lamp of night,
> O'er heaven's clear azure spreads her sacred light;
> When not a breath disturbs the deep serene,
> And not a cloud o'ercasts the solemn scene;
> Around her throne the vivid planets roll,
> And stars unnumbered gild the glowing pole."

3rd.—At day light weighed and stood over for the Island of Sumatra, where we were enabled to get some turtle, of five hundred pounds weight, for the very moderate price of half a dollar each. On leaving this coast we steered for Java, and in the evening passed close to the islands of Thwart, Way, and Button, which are uninhabited and not worthy of observation. Contrary winds afforded us an opportunity of seeing the greater part of the islands between

Angar and Batavia, which, being very numerous, obliged us to come to an anchor during the night. After entering the straits of Sunda our passage was delightful; islands every where interspersed formed a most pleasing prospect.

11th July—Came to anchor in Batavia Roads, and found lying here his Majesty's ship Cornelia, and a number of Chinese junks; the latter appeared like large castles floating in the sea; they are of a construction the most extraordinary; some of them measure upwards of 1000 tons, and are not at all calculated to encounter heavy gales, being only intended for the gentle breeze that wafts them through the Chinese seas, where a boat may safely make a passage, except at the change of the seasons, which occurs twice a year, and is equal to a hurricane; it is styled by the Chinese a typhong. The Chinese junk, though generally measuring about 1000 tons, has the appearance of a very large ship, the bulwark or upper part being three times the size of a regular ship of that tonage; apartments of bamboo are built on the deck over each other in a most irregular and clumsy manner, where the merchants, who are many, have each their trading commodities; the junks being never regularly freighted, or the goods consigned to the care of a merchant, each passenger, according to his means, takes a part for his commodities. It is surprising how they are able to navigate such

vessels, as they are unmanageable, unless with a fair wind; it is supposed that not more than one out of four reaches the destined port.

The bay, in which Batavia is situated, is very extensive, and contains several islands which form a safe anchorage for small shipping, and afford them a retreat in the most severe season; the large ships are obliged to anchor at a considerable distance from the town, hence in stormy weather it is difficult to get aboard them. The city is proverbially unhealthy, owing to its situation, as well as the heat of the climate; the embellishments also contribute much to this effect, for every street has not only a canal running through the centre, but also the town is surrounded by stagnant water; all the filth of the city is thrown into the canals and is supposed to be carried into the harbour by a broad channel which has scarcely any current, and requires peculiar attention and excessive labour to clear it of the filth, with which it is usually almost filled; the grounds on the land side of the city are intersected every where by ditches and canals; the whole shore of the harbour is covered with mud of a most disagreeable description, as also with the putrefaction of vegetable matter in a state of fermentation; to the filth of the streets, the many ditches, and the quantity of mud, may be imputed the prevalence of infectious diseases. The city is well constructed, and contains many commodious and good looking houses;

the streets are broad and planted with two rows of trees, but are not paved, as the inhabitants fear to increase the heat by their reflecting the sun's rays. Batavia may be considered a fine city; the suburbs are handsome, and afford a beautiful prospect: the plantations refreshing with their cooling shade the weary traveller; the gardens tastefully laid out, and the numerous and delightful villas, peeping through the foliage, are at once striking and rural.

It is customary for Europeans to retire to those refreshing retreats, and only visit the city when business may require; the inhabitants of the city and suburbs are about a hundred and fifty thousand, and are, for the most part, dissolute and degenerate in their lives; they are fond of drink to an immoderate degree, and the unmarried men are very loose in their manners. Extravagance prevails among the ladies, who are desirous of dressing in the most gaudy and magnificent style, and require the attendance of a train of slaves; they are always borne in splendid cars or palanquins. The heat of Batavia is allayed by the sea breeze, which blows from ten till four o'clock, and the air would be much purer, were it not for the canals which run through the middle of the streets. Deaths are so frequent, that they make but little impression on the callous minds of the inhabitants. When a Dutch man marries, he usually makes his will as a provision against the inconveniencies of sudden

death, which he beholds so frequently around him, persuaded that his own life is as a vapour that passeth away. In addition to the effects of the climate, so deleterious in its tendency, and the miasmas, the offspring of the marshes, the manners of the Dutch inhabitants contribute in no small degree to the frequency of febrile diseases. A siastra follows a well supplied dinner, and a heavy supper precedes the repose of night; they also use an immensity of wine in the course of the day, and on the whole pass lazy and unthinking lives. Filled with the dread of the near approach of death, and dead to the refinement of feeling, their motto is, "let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die."

It has been generally found that Europeans are badly able to bear the effect of the climate and of the manners usually practised in Java. Not more than one out of five of the new comers, on an average, survive the first year; three out of four Europeans are supposed to be the average of the annual obituary, including the troops and sailors. It is believed that the frequency of deaths among soldiers and sailors, is owing chiefly to their own debaucheries.

The inhabitants of the coast of Java consist of a variety of races—persons having come from all parts of India to dwell here; their manners and customs fall more properly under the description of the several countries in which they were born—however a short

sketch of them may prove useful for the attainment of some idea of the customs, habits, and manners of the Javanese. The English alone adhere to European habits, and seem to remember their dear and mother-country; and though, perhaps, constrained occasionally by the inhabitants and the peculiarity of the climate to yield in some particulars, yet never do they altogether lay aside their native customs. The heat of the climate, and their mode of living, conduces to make them lazy and careless.

The Dutch, ever fond of gin and tobacco, do not forget this habit at Batavia; and indeed the practice is retained wherever I have seen them in India. The Batavian Dutchman in every other respect conforms to the habits of the country, and spends his day as follows:—having risen at six o'clock, he usually goes to walk or sits at the door, loosely clad in a large robe, to smoke his pipe, which, accompanied by a glass of gin, to exhilarate his spirits, called a soupkie, fills up his time till seven o'clock, when a dish of coffee is prepared and served up to him by one of his slaves; after this, he again lounges about, or walks forth to enjoy the surrounding scenery: he then dresses, visits his friends and neighbours, and generally smokes a pipe and drinks a glass of gin in every house he visits. Twelve is the hour for dinner, after which, smoking, the chief luxury of the Dutchman, is resumed, and followed by a sleep for an hour. These customs would

not commend the Dutch gentlemen to our British ladies, yet to their wives they appear to combine all that is good and great; this blindness, on the part of the Dutch ladies, may be in a great measure imputed to the fact, that they are conscious of their own defects, which, I must say, even at the risk of being accounted ungallant, are very many.

The females are always kept at a great distance by their husbands, on account of the profligacy of their manners; indeed in men of any delicacy they would produce disgust and aversion, owing to their habits. After their marriage they become indolent, and hence corpulent and dirty to an excess. But few of the women are European by birth, and even the descendants of Europeans are so altered in their complexion and manners, that they would be easily mistaken for purely native Indians; therefore it would be in vain to expect the bloom of youth, and European red and white to mark the cheeks of these women. Even the pleasures of polite conversation, and that knowledge of useful subjects which renders the society of our countrywomen so pleasing and useful, are utterly unknown amongst them. The conversation of women, which tends so much to harmonize the world, forms but a little part of the Javanese Dutchman's entertainment. The ladies who, in England, are treated as queens, and in France as on an equality with the gentlemen, are in Java overlooked, and, I may say,

considered as far inferior to man. Although they sometimes mix at entertainments and public balls with the gentlemen, yet that courtesy which is common and praiseworthy in England, is but little attended to here; after the introductory salutation, the gentlemen seem to forget that they are in the society of ladies, and spend the evening smoking and talking on trifling subjects, without taking notice of them. Hence it happens that the women are very tasteless and quite unacquainted with the polite arts; they are often so ignorant and uninquiring as to be unable either to read or write, and thus possess no resource within themselves whereby to cheer their solitary hours or raise their thoughts above the vain and trifling things of life. Brought up by slaves, from whom they imbibe many vicious habits and superstitious notions, and devoid of even pure and moral principles, they are insufficient to render home social and pleasing; they fritter away their all-important hours vainly endeavouring to sip from every fading flower that pleasure which can alone be found in religion, morality, and knowledge. Both sexes rarely meet, save at public balls, each having separate rooms; while the men talk over their pipes and drink in one apartment, the ladies spend their time in another, chewing betle, and entering into idle conversation on dress, &c. On such occasions classification is strictly attended to, and nothing would be considered a greater cause of anger or grief than that the rank or

proper station of any lady should be overlooked, either by inadvertance or design, so puffed up are they with the vanities of the world, and unhumbled by the fear or sense of the near approach of death, which is so prevalent in this island.

The ladies usually retire previous to supper for the purpose of changing their dress and putting on their loose nightgowns; the gentlemen, also, to lay aside their heavy clothing for more suitable and light apparel. Indeed the manners and customs of the inhabitants, (while they are in some measure suitable to the climate,) are in a great degree opposite to, and insufficient for, the promotion of desirable ends, such as health, cleanliness, &c.

The ladies soon arrive at maturity, and as soon decay. They are marriageable at eleven or twelve years of age, owing to the heat of the climate, and are considered old at thirty: when it is usual for their place to be supplied, perhaps, by a slave of greater attraction, in which case, the slighted wife often gratifies her revengeful passions, by torturing most cruelly the slave whom she supposes to be the cause of her matrimonial infelicity. The Javanese Dutch ladies' dishabille consists of a long gown which descends to their ancles. They wear no under garment, and annoint their hair and joints with the cocoa nut oil. Thus attired, they usually sit talking with their female slaves, by whom they are surrounded, and whom they most inconsistently

chastise severely at one time, while, at another, they are accustomed to fritter away their time, by listening to them telling fairy tales. They are in the habit of constantly chewing the betle leaf and araka nut, mixed with a kind of chanum, which they believe has the effect of sweetening the breath and rendering the stomach and nerves firm, but the internal advantages this masticatory may afford the Dutch lady, is overbalanced by the disagreable appearance it gives the mouth and teeth; in fact it is offensive and sufficient to cause dislike and disgust to one unacquainted with the cause. In all the houses which belong to the Dutch, there are brass spitoons, intended for the gentlemen when they smoke, and the ladies when they wish to chew their substances. The ladies are generally very neat and particular in their sitting rooms, in which they receive visitors; but I am unable to say so much for their inner apartments which are filthy in the extreme, and disgraceful to the Batavian fair ones.

There have been many quarrels between the Dutch and Javanese, and, indeed, I think chiefly owing to the conduct of the former. On the first arrival of the English at Bantam, the cunning devices of the Dutch had well nigh involved the British in their quarrels with the natives; for the Hollanders, to answer their own ends, pretended that they were English, and provoked the Javanese in such a manner, that many of the Dutch fell victims to the popular rage, having been

stabbed in the streets. In the general massacre, the British would have fallen, (the Javanese not being aware of any distinction between them and the English, owing to the pretences of the former,) had not our countrymen adopted the following expedient: they all dressed themselves in new apparel of silk, and made scarfs of white and red taffata—the distinctive colours of their native land; they also made a flag with a cross in the centre, and hoisted English banners on the tops of their houses. Having thus done, they marched forth with a drum, and having paraded up and down, within their own ground, fired many vollies of musketry. The sebandar and chiefs of the land came to witness the triumph, and, having inquired into the cause of it, were told that the English were celebrating the forty-seventh anniversary of the queen. They commended our countrymen for doing so, and asked why they (pointing to the Dutch) did not act likewise, to which it was replied, that the persons to whom they alluded were not English, but Hollanders. The Javanese, ever since distinguished between our countrymen and the Dutch, and even the children, have been known to run through the streets, exclaiming: "The English are good, but the Hollanders are naughty."

CHAP. IX.

The Manners, Customs, and Religion of the Chinese—Cruelty of the Dutch, Manifested in a Fearful Massacre which they Perpetrated.

THE next class of inhabitants are the Chinese, who are the greatest capitalists, except the Javanese, of Batavia. It is almost useless to inquire as to what time the Chinese first settled here, as well as in many other oriental islands: some have traced their settlement in Java to 1412. They are very crafty, and practice every kind of deceit in their dealings; but, unlike the Javanese, are neither proud nor unwilling to labour for the necessaries and comforts of life. As to religion, they are of divers sects—some are atheists, others believe that the good people, when they die, will live again in great riches, and become governors and mighty men, while, on the other hand, the wicked shall be turned into toads or some ugly beast. They burn sacrifices every new moon, and mumble prayers over them with a singing voice, while, at the same time, they ring a little bell, which, at the end of every prayer, is rung as loudly as possible. When any one is about to die, they use the following ceremony: the altars are furnished with goats, hens, ducks, and different sorts of fowls, which are sometimes

previously dressed for eating and sometimes are raw, but afterwards are prepared for food; they only burn painted paper, valued at a certain rate; and having been asked to whom they offered the sacrifice, have answered—to God. Some have asserted that they are offered to the devil. The only holy days are those on which they commemorate the beginning of some great work, and those are considered as always binding in their observance. Whenever any of the wealthy die, the remaining friends and relatives burn the bodies of the deceased, and, having put the ashes into jars, convey them to China. They hold plays to their Gods, in the beginning of which they often burn sacrifices; the priest kneels down and kisses the ground on these occasions three times. Those plays are usually adopted whenever they think that a junk is on the way from China, or whenever any one sets out to China; they begin at noon, and do not cease till next morning, and are performed in the streets, stages being erected for the purpose.

The superstition of the Chinese is peculiarly manifest in the frenzy of the soothsayers, who run up and down the streets like madmen, tearing their hair, holding drawn swords in their hands, and dash themselves against the ground. When in this state of excitement it is believed that they can foresee the future. Whenever a junk sets sail the soothsayers are applied to for their response, as to whether the vessel will reach the

destined port in safety; it has sometimes happened that they have chanced on the truth. The Chinese, by their attention to business and ingenuity, have proved themselves of great service to the European colonists; and it must be acknowledged that the establishment would be very deficient without their valuable services; they can be found in all the oriental islands busily engaged in various occupations, as merchants, mechanics, fishmongers, upholsterers, tailors, blacksmiths, &c., &c.; in short a spirit of activity and industry seems to characterise the Chinese wherever they colonize, which raise them above the generality of their neighbours. What a pity it is that these industrious people are so debased by superstition, and defective in many of the nobler qualities of humanity. When under the dominion of the Dutch they were constrained to pay many heavy taxes, even their tails were not overlooked by their rapacious masters, but afforded a large revenue; however they were enabled by their hard earnings to pay all demands brought against them. Many of the Chinese carry on a considerable trade with their mother, and much loved, country. To many islands, also, in the Eastern Archipelago, they repair with their trading commodities; it may be naturally thought strange that the Dutch, with the assistance and servitude of so active and industrious a people as the Chinese, would be necessitated to employ slaves for the carrying out of their designs; but it should be

remembered that the Chinese, being averse to all slavery, only exert their powers and ingenuity for the benefit of their own personal property; and when compelled to labour in the vineyard, and for the benefit of any other man, are idle and lazy. They are the chief men throughout the whole island of Java; for the Javanese being bad politicians, and on the contrary, the Chinese being crafty and cringing, the latter generally effect their ends, rise to eminence, and have been very frequently chosen as magistrates of the towns and places in which they dwelt. As to their personal appearance they are strong and tall; they have very small black eyes, and no hair on their faces. Most inconsistently they have been in the habit of buying women slaves in Java, by whom they beget many children, but when they return to their native shore they overlook and leave them behind, while they take their children along with them.

The places of worship of the Chinese stand unmolested among the Mahometan mosques; indeed they have no reasonable ground of fear from the Javanese, who, so far from being cruel or oppressive, are, on the contrary, submissive, and partly subservient to them; and this, too, not contrary to their inclinations.

The Dutch have not only proved themselves hard taskmasters to the Javanese, but have also made the Chinese, to smart under their galling yoke; they massacred them to the amount of at least 20,000, on a

groundless pretence. For the perpetration of this diabolical and detestable deed they had scarcely any excuse to offer; and when their governor was sent to Europe for trial, he was ordered to return again to Batavia, but has escaped without receiving the punishment due to his conduct. The massacre has not been, nor never will be, erased from the tablet of the memory of the Chinese, who, in that instance, were the inoffensive and harmless victims.

The Dutch, naturally believing that their cruel and inexpedient conduct would provoke the indignation of the Emperor of China, and thus that their trade with the celestial kingdom would be materially injured, if not altogether lost, dispatched an embassy from Java for the purpose of waiting on the Emperor and apologising for their conduct, which (without truth to support their cause) they pleaded was absolutely necessary for the preservation of their own lives. To the great satisfaction of the guilty, and wonder of the world, the deputies were told that the Emperor was by no means careful about those who would, for their own aggrandizement, leave the land of their nativity, and thus forsake the tombs of their fathers.

The Chinese have the greatest respect for the memory of any of their ancestors who have died; a peculiar ceremony is adopted for the honouring of the departed, and no expense or trouble overlooked for the attainment of that design. The heads of all those families

who are raised above the lowest station of life, when they die, are placed in separate vaults, which, when intended for persons of high station, are built in their own lifetime. They have many superstitious and foolish ceremonies connected with their burial, which arise from too great a veneration for the tenement of clay which no longer contains the animating spirit which alone renders it a beloved object.

The Chinese cultivate so great a love and respect for their parents, that even the great men and mandarins, in the mother country, have been known to beg permission from the emperor to retire home for the purpose of comforting them in their old age. When the parents die, all the friends, from the least to the greatest, continue mourning for three years, and dress in white, which is their badge of sorrow, and of which even their caps are composed. For the first year they wear sackcloth. Some of the great men keep the dead two or three years in a house provided for the occasion, whither they repair every day to pay their service of sorrow. Immediately after death, the body is washed, clothed in the best apparel, and placed in a chair for the convenience of friends, who, with many tears and lamentations take leave of the senseless body. A table well covered with bread and various fruits is placed before the remains of the departed object of affection, and wax figures are stationed on each side as attendants. The ceremony having ended on the third day,

the body is put into a coffin of camphire wood, which is said to have the property of preserving the corpse, and is removed into an apartment hung with white, in which an altar is erected for the purpose of bearing the coffin, which is now covered with a cloth that has drawn on it the portrait of the deceased. They keep the body sometimes for fifteen days, during which time, the priests having brought many pictures of men and women, burn them as sacrifices. On the day of interment the whole family assemble, having received a solemn invitation from the eldest son, and the body is conveyed to the grave, with the greatest possible solemnity. The first part of the procession consists of persons bearing the images of men, women, elephants, &c. The priests follow next, accompanied by the musicians; and last of all, the bier, borne by a number of persons, and followed by the sons, presenting a ghastly appearance, owing to their fastings, and supported upon crutches, as if unable to walk firmly, closes the procession. The female relations are carried in chairs, covered with white linen, to conceal them from the gaze of the multitude. The lamentations on this occasion are loud and many. Women regularly hired for the purpose, raise a doleful cry, similar to that used among the lower orders in Ireland. The Chinese are particular about the time and place of burial, being persuaded that, in a great measure, the prosperity of their descendants depends upon the selec-

tion of burial ground. Hence the coffin is sometimes detained for a long time, until their scrupulous fears have been removed by the choice of a place agreeable to their wishes. Temporary roofs are often erected to afford them shelter from the inclemency of the weather; but necessity compels the poorer class to overlook their superstitious fears, and deposit the body unceremoniously in whatever place may be found convenient for the purpose.

The public burial places are very extensive, owing to the superstitious respect the Chinese have for the dead, which prohibits them from burying a body in any place previously occupied. They are, indeed, most scrupulous in those matters, and degrade human reason by their many unreasonable ceremonies and superstitions. They usually keep a table, on which the names of their fathers, grandfathers, and great-grandfathers are inscribed. Before this they very frequently burn incense, and worship in the humiliating posture of prostration; the name of the great-grandfather always gives way to that of the deceased.

The Chinese are as eccentric in matrimonial as burial affairs. The betrothed do not usually see each other until the bargain has been concluded by the parents, who generally dispose matters according to their own desire, and are almost always children at the time of the bargain. When the time arrives at which the parties are about to be joined together in

wedlock, the lady is carried in a chair, decked with artificial flowers, overlaid with gold, and adorned in the most gaudy manner, to her intended husband; she is usually followed by a large attendance of relatives, friends, and servants, who carry the ensigns of honour, the only marriage portion given on the occasion.

Barrenness is considered a great scandal, next to which is the giving birth to females; and so far is the latter inconsistent notion carried in some cases, that the women of poor families, who have had three or four females successively, have been frequently known to cast them into a river or destroy them in some other way. How seared by superstition must the heart of that mother be who will murder her helpless offspring, the gift of Providence, for the mere purpose of escaping a supposed scandal.

The dress of the Chinese varys according to rank, and is completely regulated by the laws. While black is used in England as mourning, white is in requisition in China; and the poorer class of people seem to be confined to black or blue cotton cloth as their common clothing; they in general wear hats in the shape of shallow basons, some of silk and others of hair; the great men wear hoods of different kinds; their hair is very long, which they bind in a knot on their heads; the rest of their dress consists of a vest and sash, a coat or gown, and a pair of loose drawers and slippers. The dress of the females is similar to that of the

males, with the exception of the petticoat which they wear; they allow their nails to grow to an inconvenient length, of which they appeared to be very proud; I have seen them four or five inches long; persons of the higher class permit them to grow upon both their hands, while the second only on one, being necessitated to work with the other; the lower order have their nails cut as the people of other countries. To conclude, the Chinese, although subtle and hypocritical, are, nevertheless, submissive and industrious to a degree, and possess many redeeming qualities. The bad character which they have received, generally from those who traded with them, may be owing to the fact, that the propagators of those reports were, for the most part, only acquainted with the inhabitants of the seaports, and therefore could not be well calculated to form a just idea of the Chinese as a people. Were the bright beams of the Gospel to chase away the clouds of their superstition, perhaps no people would adorn the doctrine of Christ more.

CHAP. X.

The Javanese, their Employment, Character, and Religion—The Indolent and Cruel Habits of their Princes—Credulity and Superstition of the Javanese—The Character and Piratical Habits of the Malays—Account of the Edible Birds' Nests found in the Captured Slave Ship—Insalubrity of the Climate at Batavia—The Death of a Midshipman—Departure from Batavia, and Arrival at Borneo—An Account of the Island.

The Javanese are the next class, who naturally exceed all the other inhabitants in number; they are very proud, but exceedingly poor, because disinclined to work; the gentlemen, it is supposed, become poor by the number of slaves they keep, who eat up the greater part of their substance.

The industrious Chinese being willing to plant, dress, and gather the pepper, and sow the rice, &c., have become the masters of the wealth of the land. The common employment which the Javanese, in conjunction with the Malays, follow, is that of fishing, while they commit all domestic matters to the care of the females. The fishermen venture an immense distance from land in their canoes; we have frequently fallen in with them when at least sixty or seventy miles from shore, but could never succeed in boarding them, they sail so fast. Their canoes are of different sizes, being from twenty to forty feet long, and have outriggers for the prevention of upsetting; they carry an immensity of sail, and when overtaken in a squall, a man gets out on the

weather outrigger for the purpose of counteracting the effects of the wind; they seldom or never meet with any accident, and deserve the greatest credit for their ingenuity in the management of the fishing tackle, as well as that of their boats; both the boats and fishing tackle are made and can only be used by themselves; the hooks are made generally of bone, the tusks of wild boars, or hard wood; their fishing lines are for the most part made of the shrub called reva, or the outside of the cocoa nut; they twist the filament with their hands and thus make the line, which is seldom composed of more than four threads, even for fish of the largest kind: they often fall in with sword fish, which sometimes strike through their canoes; the fishermen are in great dread of them. Whenever a catastrophe of this kind occurs, the boatsmen jump into the sea and secure the fish with a rope, having a running bowling not on it. Great quantities of small fish are caught at the mouth of the river with a large net or rather box, made of the cocoa nut husk, the mouth of which is surrounded with lead for the purpose of carrying it to the bottom, when they pull the running string like that of a purse, and thus succeed in catching boat loads. The Javanese, when angling, stand up to their knees in water and use long bamboo rods; they are very blood thirsty, but scarcely ever boldly meet the foe, seeking revenge in an underhand and cowardly way, although stout and well built men.

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Murders are very frequent, which were, in olden times, atoned for by the payment of a fine to the king; the friends of the murdered used to seek to be revenged on the murderer, and thus a great revenue was raised by the frequency of bloody and evil deeds. The weapon used by them in common is the kreese, which is about two feet long; the blade is waved and crooked, being indented, and uncommonly sharp. Seldom any ever escape the effects of a wound caused by it; the handles are made of horn or wood, and sometimes curiously carved in the likeness of a devil, which many of the Javanese worship. So great is their want of confidence in each other, that they scarcely ever enter into conversation without having a kreese in their hands, ready to commit some murderous deed; they are, for the most part, well built, with good features, broad across the forehead, and rather flat-nosed; their colour is of a light brown, while their hair is very black; they usually reside in huts, constructed of bamboo, daubed with mud, and thatched with leaves of trees; their chief diet consists of rice and vegetables; their drink is water; they are generally naked and wear a cloth about a yard wide round their loins; the men for the most part go bareheaded, with the view of showing their thickly curled hair, of which they are very proud; the women never wear any thing on their heads, having their hair tucked up, either carelessly or carefully, according to their station or taste.

As to religion, they are either Pagans or Mahometans, the latter profess to acknowledge Christ to be a true prophet, whom they have called Naby Isa; the lower orders have but little knowledge of any religion, and merely acknowledge one God, who made heaven and earth; he is good they say, and will not hurt them, but the devil is bad and will injure them; hence many of them have been known to pray to the latter lest he should afflict them with evils.

Persons in authority are easily bribed; and the Javanese in general are bad paymasters when trusted, although the laws relative to debt have been very severe, for the creditor may take the debtor, wife, children, and all, and sell them for the debt. They are great thieves, and were cannibals, before the traffic with, and settlement of, the Chinese; they are very fond of music and ease, and often spend the day sitting cross-legged and cutting a stick, whereby many of them have become very expert in the carving of the kreese handle, which is their favourite employment. The gentlemen are great eaters, but put their slaves and dependants off with very poor diet. The Javanese are generally very bad politicians, and hence have been always outwitted by those who colonized their island. The natives are nominally in subjection to princes, who are thought to be the offspring of those Arabians who succeeded in bearing their religion, trade, and arms into the East Indies long prior to the

period in which they were visited by Europeans. The princes spend their time in an idle manner, and may, with truth, be said to dream away their existence; they delight in smoaking, and devote much of their time to this semi-barbarous and injurious custom; while, with the greatest indifference to their affairs, they recline upon luxurious couches; a company of dancing men and women endeavour to amuse them. On other occasions, those females pass away their time by the narration of romantic stories, respecting the amours of the deities, the wonders of the genii, and the famous deeds of the ancient heroes. These idle amusements sometimes give place to the more manly one of reviewing the troops, when engaged in the exercise of throwing the javelin; but their most favourite amusement consists in the fight of the tiger and buffaloe, which are kept in cages for the purpose. The keepers sometimes fall victims to the rage of the tiger, who is more willing to attack the man than the buffaloe; they require great courage when turning out those wild animals for the amusement of the despots. The combat between the tiger and condemned criminal also affords delight to the inhuman Javanese princes. The culprit is usually unarmed, with the exception of a kreese, and oftentimes maintains a hard, if not a victorious, struggle. Those exhibitions are most cruel; for even if the poor man happens to overcome his enemy, he is exposed to the attack of

another, and so on until at last he falls, exhausted, beneath his foe. How hardened must the heart of that man be, who can not only witness with complacency, but also with satisfaction, yea, even with the most intense delight, the exposure of his fellow mortal to the unequal and fatal attack of wild beasts. How true is the declaration, "the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked."

Some of the Javanese women are very handsome and delicate in their features, but generally they are not distinguishable from the males so much by their countenances as by their feminine and delicate forms; they are in some instances very beautiful, being well made and proportioned as to their limbs and body; there is something majestic in their appearance, and graceful in their walk, which at once strikes the beholder. At about eleven years of age they arrive at maturity, and put on a more full clothing, having been almost naked until that age, their only dress being a small belt round the waist, from which a brass plate is suspended.

The female chastity seems to be held in no great estimation; but with truth I am constrained to say that the general conduct and modesty of the women are most praiseworthy; in fact unfaithfulness to the marriage contract is unusual. It is generally supposed by the superstitious multitude that the women are very skilful in the art of philtris and facination, by the

knowledge of herbs. Many anecdotes told and believed by the natives, might be brought forward as instances of their credulity and superstition on this point; but, as they are of too rude and indelicate a nature, we forbear.

It remains now only to mention, the Malays who came to Java, principally from Sumatra and Malacca; it is generally thought that they are the offspring of the Tartars and Chinese.

There is no character more peculiar than that of the Malays, and perhaps they might be classed amongst the worst people in the world. Although treacherous, vindictive, and ferocious, yet they would make good soldiers, being fearless of danger and careless about their lives. Their contempt of death and bravery raises them far above the other Asiatic tribes; they are possessed of no mild and amiable qualities, and, being careless about their own lives, set but little value upon those of others.

The Dutch assert, with some shew of reason, that they are in the habit of perpetrating deeds of murder for a small sum of money. Some instances have occurred in which they have destroyed the lives of Europeans, merely for the sake of their buttons. If any one happens to do them a favour, they are known to question the benefactor whom he would wish to be put to death, which is thought a full recompense for the kindest act; an assassin can be hired for the

paltry sum of a dollar, an inducement sufficient to influence him to imbrue his hands in the blood of his fellow-creature; they have committed many depredations by various means, and especially by pirating. When attacked by vessels of war and vanquished in unequal strife, sooner than submit to their conquerors, or suffer themselves to be captured, they have leaped into the water, refused the assistance of the boats, and fought with their favourite and deadly weapon—the kreese; they never give quarter to those who may happen to fall into their hands, and therefore look for but little mercy in return.

An attempt made by the Malays to board an English sixty-four gun ship, which they had taken for an East-indiaman, is on record; however, as it may be naturally expected, they failed, and found, by experience, that British tars are not easily conquered. In some cases they are driven by the illtreatment of the Dutch to do many things, which, under other circumstances, perhaps they would not. Some of the Malays, but indeed not many, have been active, industrious, and well inclined, showing that, while as a nation they are culpable in a high degree, there are some honorable exceptions to the general rule.

While anchored at Batavia we captured a small vessel full of unfortunate victims who were about to be sold as slaves; there were seventy-six females and forty males on board, all of whom we restored to

liberty; they were exported from the Celebes, and are better known by the name of Macassers or Buggesses; they are the victims of war, subdued by the Dutch. The captured vessel had also on board a quantity of edible birds' nests, which are much esteemed by the Chinese; the nests make the most nutritious soup, and are highly valued because of their generative property; they are generally sold or exchanged for the same weight of silver; they are swallows' nests, composed of a substance supposed to be fish spawn in a particular state, which, when it becomes dry, is solid and transparent; they are found in the most secret clefts of the rocks which overhang the sea, and require great skill and exposure to danger in procuring them; the men are lowered down by ropes, taking with them baskets and long poles, the former for the purpose of putting therein the looked for treasure, and the latter to assist them in their descent and ascent, by aiding them to keep clear of the projecting rocks, which would otherwise impede their progress. When the men discover the retreats of the birds, though they may be far removed from the perpendicular fall of the rope, they endeavour to reach them by swinging backwards and forward until they lay hold of the entrance. This hazardous undertaking is generally rewarded handsomely.

During our continuance at Batavia we had an extreme of heat; the thermometer was from ninety-

one to ninety-six degrees; the morning sea breeze ushered in noxious vapours, and the meridian sun a deliterious miasm. The wan and languid appearance of the Europeans, and the obituary of the public hospitals, which recognize so many deaths during the year, are melancholy proofs of the unhealthiness of the climate, and proclaim with some degree of justice, that Java is "the grave of Europeans." While at anchor here, a midshipman slept on shore and returned the following morning; on coming aboard, his shipmates remarked to him that the effects of the night air on shore generally prove fatal to new comers, and added, in jest, that he would inevitably fall a prey to it, which had so great an effect upon him that he retired to his hammock and fell a victim, perhaps to imagination as well as to the deadly effect of the Batavian night air—he immediately died.

15th—Weighed, and stood along shore, and continued to coast for several days to the eastward.

21st—Spoke the Honourable East India Company's ship, the Moira, which communicated to us the intelligence that the pirates had landed at Benjarmasseen and put the inhabitants to the sword. The pirates having perpetrated a deed similar to this some time ago we thought the intelligence true, and therefore shaped our course for the above place.

29th—Made the southermost point of Borneo, situated 115 east longitute, and 4 south latitude. We

anchored in the evening in three and a half fathoms water at the mouth of the river Benjar, for the purpose of landing at the town of Benjarmasseen; but to our astonishment, found that no assault had been made by the pirates—all was peace and quietness.

Borneo is the largest island in the world, except New Holland; it is about eight hundred miles long and six hundred and fifty broad; the ancient inhabitants reside in the mountains and inland parts; the coasts are inhabited by people of different nations—Javanese, Arabs, and Malays, who, by their ferocity and barbarity, have prevented the island from being explored and known as it otherwise would have been. All the country is fruitful and abounds in rice and many useful commodities, such as camphire, pepper, &c.; there are vast woods, which would be useful for building ships, and few islands in the world produce so great a variety of beautiful birds. Gold and diamonds are produced in great plenty; camphire is one of the most useful productions, and is procured somewhat in the following manner: the tree is chopped into small pieces, and boiled in water, when the camphire, on ascending to the top, forms a thick body.

The inhabitants of Borneo are strong and warlike, and render the island very dangerous for traders; many merchant vessels have been captured and the crews butchered by those ferocious islanders; the following barbarous custom once existed on this island, but

whether it is still observed is, I think, doubtful:—Whenever a king died, the body was burned and the ashes preserved; within six days after his death, the wives of the deceased king were obliged to assemble in an appointed place, when the most beloved partner of the deceased was appointed to throw a ball, and wherever it stopped, thither they all ran, and, having turned their faces to the east, stabbed themselves to their hearts. The men are very brave and obedient to the commands of their sovereign, even in matters where life is concerned; if he command them to perform the most dangerous exploit, they immediately do it, though perhaps assured that their lives will be the forfeit; the despots are in the habit of cutting off the heads of those who do not succeed in their attempts; accordingly, the men, having no alternative, become desperate in the extreme.

Benjarmasseen is the principal commercial town, but, owing to the great swampishness of the coast, the construction of the houses is very inferior and irregular, they are built upon piles of wood, at least three feet from the ground. The ourang-outang is an inhabitant of this island, and equals in size a man. This extraordinary creature has been known to commit many depredations; I was informed by good authority that one of them carried away a woman by force, and obliged her to live in the woods with him. It is reported that she had an opportunity of escaping,

but strange to say she preferred her somewhat novel mode of life.

The following curious circumstance was recorded in a Madras newspaper :—A canoe, with several persons on board, was wrecked on the island of Borneo, all of whom perished, with the exception of a female, who was taken notice of by an ourang-outang. The poor woman having no alternative, was obliged to live with this monster, who became very much attached to her, and erected a shed to protect her from the heat of the sun. A long time had elapsed, in which she brought forth two children. One day observing a ship at sea, she immediately hoisted a signal, and succeeded in attracting the notice of the crew, who dispatched a boat to her assistance. The ourang-outang fortunately happened to be absent at the time, and on his return, observed her in the boat making towards the ship. He evinced the greatest sorrow, and used intreaties to induce her to return. Finding this means ineffectual, he hastened for one of the children, and held it up to view, conceiving that it would have the desired effect, but finding his expedient fruitless, he dashed the child into the sea, and returned for the other, who met the same fate.

CHAP. XI.

Arrival at Surabaya—Human Burial—Sacrifices—Instances of Wives Burning themselves on the Piles of their Husbands—Description of the Neighbouring Country—Its Produce, &c.

2nd August.—Weighed and made sail for the coast of Java.

5th.—Fell in with his Majesty's ship Phœnix, and sailed with her for Surabaya; owing to our superiority in sailing, we arrived thirty hours before her.

12th—Anchored in Surabaya, a town of Java, situated in the eastern side of the island, in latitude 5° south, and 114° east. The town is erected on a canal about three miles from the place in which we anchored. On visiting it, the first thing that presented itself to my eye was a fire on the banks of the canal; a stranger's curiosity induced me to make inquiries of its meaning; I was much astonished when informed that the fire contained human bodies, the remains of Sepoy soldiers, which I was enabled plainly to see when I approached it. This ceremony is performed even before the body is cold: it is taken down to the bank, and the head having been shaved, and tied to a stake, faggots are then strewed around, which being set on fire, the corpse is left to consume without further notice.

This extraordinary custom is even extended to the living. The following circumstance occurred while we lay here: A man of eminence having died, was, in compliance with the usual custom, tied to a stake for the purpose of burning. All necessary preparations having been made, and fire communicated to the faggots, the widow flung herself into the burning mass, and so great was her enthusiasm, that she appeared to endure the torture of burning without the least emotion. This cruel deed was put into practice despite of all the exertions of the European by-standers to dissuade her from the perpetration of so unreasonable and diabolical a custom. All persuasion failed, all reasoning proved insufficient to divert her from so abominable a deed; she insisted that it was her duty so to act, being led thereto by a sense of honour as well as religion, and being influenced by the persuasion that it was a debt she owed her husband. Having thus expressed herself relative to the uprightness and integrity of her conduct, she cast herself into the flames. We read of Indian philosophers who have devoted themselves to death in this extraordinary manner, through fanaticism and the love of vain glory. Calames burnt himself in the presence of Alexander, and was not the first to shew the example. An Indian philosopher also, aged eighty-three, a follower of Alexander, being seized with a violent cholic, determined to destroy himself by fire, and accordingly put his resolution into practice.

In the year 1735, the widow of the king of Tanjore sacrificed herself on the funeral pile of her husband. In fact we have so many similar instances on record, that it would be useless as well as endless, to enumerate them. Suffice it to say, that the custom has existed in India from time immemorial. It is a practice that pure reason could never have instituted—it is the offspring of man, darkened as he is in his understanding by the prevalence of sin, and estranged from God even from his mother's womb. Surely the Gospel is the only source of true civilization.

The town of Surabaya is situated on the right side of the river, and is built in the Dutch style: it presents a handsome appearance, but the streets are rather irregular. The houses of the Chinese town, situated on the left side of the river, are very curiously constructed, and are adorned on the outsides with paintings of the most extraordinary kind, representing figures of a very irrational description, which are in truth more like monsters than men. The Chinese, ever watchful to make fortunes, settle at Surabaya, as well as other places in Java, influenced by the hope of reaping the fruit of their labours in the extension of their commerce.

The suburbs are very beautiful, and the abundance of pasturage, together with the groves, (planted by the hand of nature,) while they relieve the mind and refresh the body, tend to raise the soul from the contemplation of earthly objects to that of Him, by whom, and for

whose glory all things were created. Nature leads man to reflect on Nature's God; on the majesty, the wisdom, the omnipotence and the love of Him, who seeks his creatures' good, and provides for all their temporal as well as spiritual wants.

The soil about Surabaya, and indeed the whole island of Java, is very rich, and the fields are beautifully watered by rivers, which, no doubt, contribute greatly to their fertility, and give them a luxuriant appearance. The sugar cane flourishes here equally as well as in any part of India, and affords the chief source of maintenance to the natives, who, when travelling, use it as a masticatory; fruits also are in the greatest abundance; amongst the choicest are the ooroo pappas, or shaddocks, pine, and rose apples, water and musk melons, bannanas and mangosteens.

Kind providence, ever watchful for the wants of her creatures, has provided many astringent plants in this island where the bloody flux and numerous diseases, caused by the gall, prevail; asparagus, water cresses, parsley, beete, and many other useful vegetables are produced plentifully; the fruit called the mangosteen excels, because of its agreeable taste, and grows chiefly about Bantam; the trees which bear this fruit are about the height of an apple tree, and have a straight and very thick stem; the bark is rough and the branches grow thickly, like those of the clove tree; the fruit hangs at the end of small twigs, and is covered

with two leaves of a pale green on the outside, and of a light green on the inside; it comes from a green bud which produces the blossom, and then the fruit; on the top of which there is a kind of coronet which opens as soon as it begins to ripen; it contains from five to seven seeds of a most pleasant taste, and hence the mangosteens, which have the most seeds, are the best; the rind of the fruit is very thick, and of a purple colour on the outside; its taste is rather bitter. Although a cooling fruit, nevertheless it is not dangerous to the stomach, and never has it been known to have caused a surfeit in those who have eaten of it, even in an immoderate degree; a striking fact when it is remembered, that all other cooling Indian fruits are very liable to cause a bad effect except when eaten very moderately. The mangosteen is very useful for the ague, and only grows to perfection in some of the eastern isles, Amboyna, Sumatra, and Malacca. Fruits, as in all places within the tropic, are gathered throughout the whole year. The cocoa nut is amongst the most useful, and affords many of the necessaries of life, as meat, drink, clothes, and even light; the husk is spun out and made into ropes of the largest size, which are used for the rigging of ships: it is also useful for caulking, and the leaves make hats and baskets; the kernel of the cocoa nut affords oil, which, being mixed with herbs, the palm and sandal wood, and other ingredients, is used and considered very excellent;

it is called manoa. Oil intended only for burning is exposed to the sun, being an expeditious way of preparing it.

Camphire and pepper are produced in great abundance in Java, as well as many other spices; the pepper grows on tender branches, which creep up the trees like the English hops, and sometimes overtop them, when it hangs down on the stalks of the branches; it grows so thickly that it can hardly be discerned from the leaves; the berries are similar to our red currants, and turn black as they ripen. Pepper must be planted in rich soil, it ripens in October, and is gathered in November and December; it is one of the cheapest articles in the spice trade.

Tobacco grows abundantly in Java, and must be planted in rich soil, so as to thrive well; it grows to the height of eight feet, and bears leaves about seventeen inches long and nine broad.

The island of Java produces the most deadly poison in the world; the upas tree flourishes here, the existence of which has been, without any proper authority, doubted; it grows in the district of Bagnia Wanguia, a place remarkable for the richness of its soil; this tree is said to be more than a hundred feet high, and the trunk near the base is eighteen feet in circumference; the bark is smooth and of a whitish colour, and the pale green leaves fall before the flowers appear—they are of an oval form.

Criminals sentenced to die are usually appointed to gather the juice, which is of a bitter taste, and flows freely from notches, cut in the tree; few survive this dangerous task. It has been reported by some who have escaped the deadly effects of the poison when procuring it, that no pasturage or plants of any description grow near the upas tree for a wide space round; nay, even the very birds are reported to have dropped dead on a near approach to it; but those reports are contradicted and have little or no foundation in truth; the poisonous juice, having been procured with great caution, is transmitted into bamboos by incisions made in the tree, which emit the poison in drops; the incisions are made by persons specially sent for the purpose, who always, previous to their undertaking, cover closely their hands and faces as a means of protection from the juice, so deleterious in its effect, as to cause the contraction of the muscles and immediate death. This poison is further represented as being so effective in its operation that it at once flies to the heart. This juice is used for poisoning the kreeses, spears, and javelins of the natives—hence those weapons inflict a deadly wound. The Raga Palacca, a king of great power in the Celebes, gave very remarkable proof of the effects of this poison, by piercing the hands of two condemned criminals with a poisoned kreese; he immediately afterwards caused their arms to be amputated; he also punctured the toes of two

others, and likewise ordered their legs to be cut off; the four men in consequence died immediately after, and the bodies were opened for the purpose of seeing whether or not death had been caused by the operation of the poison, when it was discovered that their hearts were affected by its virulence.

In Valentyne's Narrative, the death of thirteen concubines who had proved unfaithful to their master's bed is mentioned; they were punished thus capitally, by touching their bosoms with the deleterious juice of the upas, which produced immediate dissolution.

The Javanese are acquainted with many of the medical qualities of plants; the effects of a powder unknown to all but themselves, are proofs of their extraordinary knowledge; it has been confidently asserted that this powder has the property of relaxing the human frame, while it keeps the bodies of the deceased from frigidity, and wards off putrefaction. By its wonderful effects (a little of the powder having been put into the eyes and ears of the body) the joints again become pliant, and the entire frame flexible; when in this state the body can be placed in whatever position the friends of the deceased may please. Of its efficacy there can be no doubt, as the experiment was tried upon Europeans, and proved that it had the same effect; the bodies were placed in a cave, and visited in some time after, when they were found uncorrupt and whole.

The diversity of birds is so great that an attempt to enumerate the many kinds would be almost endless; I will therefore only mention a few of the feathered inhabitants; amongst them are the vulture, pheasant, parraquets of various sorts, plovers, men-of-war birds, tropic birds, fly flappers, and sparrows; the natives set great value on the long feathers of the tropic bird, which are procured by them in the following truly dangerous manner: a man is let down from a high cliff by a rope, with the assistance of a staff to prevent his coming in contact with the projecting rocks, he descends an immense distance and examines all the clefts in search of the wished for object. Sheep, hogs, buffaloe, and fowl of various kinds are here in the greatest plenty. The usual price for half a dozen large fowl is half a Spanish dollar, while sheep and hogs are sold for the quarter of a dollar each.

The manners and customs of the Dutch inhabitants of Surabaya are similar to those in Batavia; during our stay here we experienced the greatest kindness and attention from the hospitable inhabitants, who were most anxious to oblige us in every possible manner. We were invited to the wedding of a French officer, and were much pleased with the hospitality and politeness of the people; the Dutch ladies, who mustered very strongly on the occasion, were any thing but elegant or polished in their manners. The marriage ceremony took place in the morning and was succeeded in the

evening by a most magnificent entertainment; the greatest profusion of all the luxuries of the east decked the tables; and the bride welcomed her guests with smiles of satisfaction and pleasure. With justice I must say that she was the only lady who could claim a likeness to our own countrywomen; according to the usual custom, the entertainment lasted three nights.

CHAP. XII.

Arrival at Samarang—Synopsis of Java—Arrival at Mew-bay—Desertion and recovery of three of our men—Arrival at Madras and Trincomalee.

26th—Weighed.

28th—Anchored at Samarang, a small but handsome town in Java; we were here entertained in the most hospitable manner by Captain Scott, harbour master, who invited the officers to his bungalo. Accordingly, on landing, we were ushered into a most splendid carriage, drawn by six beautiful horses, which flew with the speed of antelope; we travelled about fifteen miles into the interior and were greatly pleased by the surrounding scenery, which was the richest and most beautiful I had ever seen; the roads were very excellent and were cut through the jungle, which afforded an agreeable shade. Captain Scott gave us a most hospitable and princely entertainment, of which we only availed ourselves for two days, when we weighed.

While coasting the island of Java, a short sketch of it may be interesting; the island lies between the 6th and 9th parallels of southern latitude, and extends from the 104th to the 144th degree of eastern longitude, being about 600 miles long and 100 broad.

The straits of Sunda which separate Java from Sumatra were about fourteen miles broad in the narrowest place; the coast on the western side of the island presents to the eye bold and romantic scenery, and rises gradually into lofty hills, which are thickly covered with trees; a chain of mountains extends through the whole island and divides it into the northern and southern sections; the former was under the dominion of the Dutch, and the latter presents an unexplored field but little known, and said to be very rocky and dangerous. The northern shore is altogether low and marshy, being watered by many streams which proceed from the mountains and run through the length of the island; it affords numerous harbours and bays. Java was originally divided into eight kingdoms, each of which spoke a language foreign to the other; the mountaineers were then very barbarous and eat man's flesh; they lived unrestrained by any law, and hence gave a "free bridle" to all their lusts, and to all that is disgraceful to humanity; they have been so changed by their intercourse with other people, especially the Mahometans, that the original names and rites are altogether out of use. In the kingdom of Dragoiam the following abominable custom was formerly prevalent: when any one became ill, the friends and neighbours of the sick were in the habit of sending messengers to the soothsayers, for the purpose of receiving a divine answer, as to whether

the patient would recover or not; if the response happened to be in the negative, a person, set apart for the cruel office, was sent to strangle the sick person, after which the body of the deceased was cut into pieces and devoured by the company (assembled for the purpose) with the greatest joviality and good humour; even the very marrow of the bones was eaten, for the natives believed that if any part of the deceased remained, it would breed worms, which, for want of food, could not exist. The death of the worms was considered the sure forerunner of great torture to the soul of the deceased, hence the bones were secreted in some cave.

Java has been since divided into five kingdoms, Batavia, Jactra, Chereben, Soesochoeman, part of which forms the fifth division, or that of the Sultan. The king of Bantam lived in a fort, garrisoned by the Dutch, and was altogether dependant on them, while, on the contrary, Jactra was under the complete dominion of the Dutch, who slew the king, the lawful monarch of the territory, set fire to the city, and on its ruins erected the present city of Batavia, in the year 1619.

The Gallo-Batavia flag, which for a long time had waved triumphantly in the east, was no longer permitted to assume the sovereign sway, and was struck in August, 1811. Our brave soldiers, sailors, and marines effected a debarkation on the 4th of August, and on the 8th the city of Batavia surrendered to the

British; a sharp action took place on the 10th with the combined armies of France and Holland, which obliged the Gallo-Batavians to retire into their strong hold, fort Cornelius, which was captured after a severe assault, though their army amounted to 10,000 disciplined troops, which were either killed or taken prisoners. An officer of the Royal Marines particularly distinguished himself on this occasion, for when, in defence of the British flag which had been entrusted to his care, his legs were shot off, he gallantly wrapped the ensign of his country round his fainting and bleeding body, determined to die or maintain gloriously the honour of Britain; he succeeded in his bold attempt, and has recovered from his all but fatal wounds.

An island, one of the richest in the east, which for a long time helped to raise one of the greatest European nations by its supply of power and magnificence, has been thus taken from the dominion of Holland and the short usurpation of France, and annexed to the British crown. The industrious Hollanders who were once in the entire possession of the spice trade, as well as pearl fishery, in addition to a wide field of commerce, have been ruined altogether in their commercial prospects.*

* This island, with its dependencies, was afterwards restored to the Dutch, to whom it now belongs.

The Dutch East India Company formerly prospered so well and promised so fairly, that some of the nations were anxious to be indentified with it, and to risk their wealth in connexion with its prospects; however, the eastern climate, enervating in its effect, soon rendered the settlers so indolent and disinclined for business, that commerce began to fall away; business-like habits soon yielded to extravagant pride, and activity to carelessness and indolence; the people sat down in ease, and gave themselves over to the enjoyment of that prosperity which had been earned by the enterprising spirit and industrious habits of their forefathers. Present comfort and luxury were their all-engrossing object, while the good of society at large was superseded by selfishness and parade; that wealth, which had been amassed by the great carefulness of their predecessors, was no longer laid out for the advancement of the Company, but squandered away on every thing which would contribute to the luxury and ease of the body. The magnificence of the governors and the grandeur of their equipages were inconceivable; the subordinate officers also walked in the steps of their superiors, although not in the same degree of splendour; hence the government in Europe enacted certain regulations by which all classes should be directed in their most common-place affairs, as weddings, funerals, dress, &c.

Some idea may be formed of the luxury and pro-

fusion of the people by the following passages taken nearly *verbatim* from their code of laws established in 1764:—

"Ladies whose husbands are below the rank of counsellors in India are not allowed to wear at one time jewels exceeding 6,000 rix dollars; wives of senior merchants are restricted to 4000; others to 3000 and 1000, according to rank; ladies in the upper rank are permitted to appear in public with three female attendants, who may wear earrings of middle-sized diamonds, gold hair pins, jackets and petticoats of gold or silken cloth, silver gauze, chains of gold, and girdles of gold, but neither pearls, diamonds, nor any kind of jewels in the hair; wives of inferior merchants may have two, and ladies of inferior rank, one attendant, who may wear earrings of small diamonds, gold hairpins, a jacket of fine linen, and chintz petticoats; but they are prohibited from wearing gold or silver stuffs, real or artificial jewels, or any ornament of gold."

These regulations had not the desired effect, but on the contrary, rather caused an increase of the evil, being designed for persons who had passed the greater part of their lives in affluence and extravagance, and who, under a sense of the shortness and uncertainty of life in India, had given themselves up to the gratification of the flesh and to the full enjoyment of those things of which they were persuaded that they could be but the momentary possessors. We need not wonder at the prevalence of the epicurean principle, "let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die," in India, when it reigns even in England, where the Gospel sheds so clearly its bright beams, and where the preaching of faithful men has so often sounded forth the truth, that it is

appointed unto man once to die, but "after death the judgment."

The decline of the Dutch property may, however, be imputed also to the wars with England. The French were always desirous of uniting the Dutch interest with their own, by which instrumentality their navies and foreign settlements generally became the property of the British.

6th Sept.—Came to anchor in Mew Bay, for the purpose of wooding and watering. This is a large and commodious bay, well sheltered, and situated in the west part of Java. About eight years ago some Malay families came to settle here, but they were all carried off in a few weeks by the unhealthiness of the place; several similar attempts have been made since that time, but without success. We lost a number of men, although we remained but a short time.

During our stay we made an excursion into the jungle, but had not penetrated far when we discovered the tracks of wild animals, and plainly distinguished those of the elephant and rhinoceras, which were sufficiently alarming to prevent our making a second attempt; so bold were these animals that they came down in the morning early to drink where we were watering. To prevent their committing any mischief on the wood cutters, we were obliged to light fires and burn the surrounding jungle, which was in a blaze for some miles round.

We were much gratified by the variety of birds we saw here, and for the first time were visited by vultures, which kept hovering over our ship.

We got a fine specimen of coral from off a reef that we found to extend in one continued range along the shore; the sea being unruffled the refulgence of the sun exposed the various sorts, which were formed in the most beautiful order, and appearing in a variety of figures, heightened by spangles of the richest colours, afforded a most beautiful prospect.

This extensive and delightful sub-marine scene was greatly improved by the multitudes of fishes which were afterwards found left in small pools, by the ebb of the tide.

9th—In the evening missed three of our men, and after a fruitless search of some hours, were obliged to return on board fully convinced that they had strayed into the jungle and were devoured by wild beasts; we conceived it impossible for them to desert, no village being within twenty miles of us. The inhabitants are of a savage nature, consequently we concluded that even if the unfortunate men escaped the wild animals, they would inevitably fall a prey to the ferocious cannibal.

On the night of the 10th, we observed some lights on the beach at a considerable distance from the place where we watered; conceiving it to be a signal made by the men who had strayed, we immediately rowed in that

direction, and were saluted by the alternate shrieks and howlings of the nocturnal inhabitants of the wood, which were almost sufficient to deter us from proceeding further in our search. The reverberation of the harsh and wild outcries in the still night was truly awful; we landed, and pursued our lonely excursion on the shore with caution, but without success, and being unable to discover even the fire which had been seen from the ship, returned on board much cast down at the supposed melancholy fate of our poor shipmates. Next morning a boat was sent round the bay, but with as little success as before. Fevers, dysentery and scurvy having increased to a most alarming degree during our stay here, it was thought necessary, as many of our most healthy men died, to proceed to some port where refreshments could be procured; for that purpose we weighed on the morning of the 11th, for Anger, where we arrived on the following day. We had not been at anchor many hours before supplies of beef, poultry, and fruit in the greatest plenty were sent on board; but, notwithstanding all the wished for necessaries had been obtained, we continued to lose many valuable lives, and a long time elapsed before the contagion was checked.

To our great surprise the natives of this place brought us our ship-mates, whom we lost at Mew Bay. These poor fellows, who had been originally smugglers, and transported from England to India for their illicit

practices, left us for the purpose of deserting. On landing at Mew Bay they entered a most impenetrable jungle, full of wild beasts, and miraculously succeeded in effecting a passage to Anger, having travelled upwards of a hundred miles through a howling wilderness. While the day continued they prosecuted their journey, and at night rested in the bows of the trees. Their only means of subsistence was the produce of the wood. Truly their escape from the wild beasts was most providential, as they were frequently beset, when in the trees, and even attacked by them. On their return, their state was very distressing, as they were dreadfully lacerated by the thorns and briars of the jungle; the captain, in consequence of their extreme sufferings, pardoned the crime of desertion.

19th—This evening weighed for India, to the inexpressible joy of all on board. On leaving Java we had upwards of eighty men sick, many of whom died while crossing the bay of Bengal.

30th—Saw the island of Ceylon, and from this time till the 3d of October, were becalmed. At length a fine breeze sprang up, and enabled us to get to anchor in the inner harbour of Trincomalee; this place being proverbially unhealthy, and having so many sick on board, we were ordered to Madras for the purpose of sending our invalids to hospital.

6th—Weighed, and after a favourable passage, anchored at Madras. Immediately after our arrival

we sent the sick to hospital. From the unsettled state of the weather, some time elapsed before we got an opportunity of procuring provisions and water, which detained us much longer than we expected, as in this month the change of the monsoon and rainy weather begins, and the whole of the coast of Coromandal being destitute of good harbours, it is extremely dangerous for ships to remain during the season: to this is owing the periodical returns of the English shipping to Bombay and the Malabar coast, where it is serene and safe. It is said that the chain of mountains running from north to south, causes this great alteration in the seasons; for when winter sets in on the Malabar coast, it is summer on the Coromandal. The rains make the only distinction of the seasons, which are by no means moderate; the heaviest showers in England are but dews compared to those in the East Indies, which are like floods of water flowing from the clouds with prodigious impetuosity.

18th—Weighed for Trincomalee, where we arrived on the 22nd. Of all the places in India, Trincomalee is the most unhealthy—it scarcely affords any of the common necessaries of life, and the natives drag out a miserable existence, immersed in poverty; hundreds of them absolutely die for want of food. The town, which deserves not the appellation, consists of a number of mean huts jumbled together; it is generally visited twice a year by a raging fever, which

carries off many European inhabitants and thousands of natives: this malady is to be attributed to the surrounding jungle. Shooting was our only amusement, which was not only attended with the danger of catching the jungle fever, but also the risk of meeting with elephants, tigers, snakes, and wild buffalo. Game is in great plenty—jungle fowl, peacock, plover, snipe, quail, hares, deer, and wild boar, are met with in every part of the island. In snipe shooting it is necessary to have a buffalo, attended by a man, to beat up the ground or marshes. The snipe generally resort to the paddy or rice fields, which are so wet that sportsmen find it a toil to get through them; but as there are banks which intersect each other in every direction, snipe shooting may be considered the greatest sport.

CHAP. XIII.

Arrival at Point de Gall—Cape Comeron—Cochin and Calicut—Account of Sacrifice Rock—Arrival at Goa—Account of the Inquisition, and the Narrative of Mr. Dillon.

18th November.—Weighed in company with his Majesty's ship, Illustrious, and shaped our course along the coast of Ceylon.

25th.—Anchored in Point de Gall Roads, where we were plentifully supplied with fruit, vegetables, and other refreshments, which were much wanted, as we had upwards of one hundred sick with jungle fever and liver complaint.

28th—Weighed.

15th Dec.—Made Cape Comeron, the southernmost promontory of the continent of India. The land, which forms this cape, though not three leagues in extent, affords two seasons in a year, the trees being laden on one side with flowers and blossoms, while on the other they are altogether stripped. This surprising phenomenon is owing to the winds, which blow periodically from the west on one side, and from the east on the other.

18th—Anchored in Cochin roads. Cochin is a very ancient town, and is now in ruins; there is but one street

which is principally inhabited by Jews. The only good building is the King's, or Raga's palace, the interior of which we were permitted to explore, and found it ornamented with unmeaning and immodest paintings. It is melancholy to relate, that in the most remote corner of this palace, there are no less than fifty unfortunate concubines, who live in abject slavery. I never beheld greater objects of pity than the inhabitants, and may safely say, that every third person I met had a Cochin leg, which was, in size, equal to his body. This description of leg is not alone confined to Cochin; it is well known throughout all India; but from the very great number of objects this place affords, it is called the Cochin leg: it is said to be caused by low diet and immoderate drinking of water. The lower order of people are all beggars. I saw several of the natives with large patches on their bodies, somewhat like the spotted negro exhibited in England, in 1810. This is not at all uncommon among the natives of India. I think it is rather owing to some disease than a natural phenomenon.

19th—Weighed; and the following day being calm, came to an anchor in the Roads of Calicut.

The country of Calicut, from which the town takes its name, was once a vast Asiatic empire, and extended itself through the whole of Malabar. The prince of this place assumed the name of the King of Kings. Sarana Parimal, the last of this line, was converted to

the faith of Mahomet, and went to Mecca to live, having previously divided his territories to the chiefs of his own blood, reserving, however, a portion to the extent of twelve leagues, for a page to whom he was much attached, and gave the title of Samorin. All the other princes were to render obeisance to him. It was this Samorin who built a city in the place from which his master departed, and gave it the name of Calicut. In the year 1498, Vasco De Gama, a native of Portugul, after much cruizing and doubling the Cape of Good Hope, discovered Calicut. This was, indeed, a most important discovery; for in addition to the commercial advantages derivable therefrom, it had the more useful one of inducing princes to erect factories and overlook the supposed benefits of war, for the more salutary and laudable object of commercial interest.

The Portuguese were received in an encouraging manner by the natives; this shew of kindness did not last long, owing to the fact, that the priests of the former converted many of the latter, and thus called forth the animosity of the populace, who butchered numbers of the Portuguese in their factories. This act was, however, revenged; but the Samorin succeeded eventually in driving the settlers from his dominions and destroying their commerce.

The air of Calicut is very salubrious, and the soil very fertile; the land is subject to great inundations,

which sweep down from the hills with extraordinary force. The sea has, on some occasions, committed great devastations on the coast, and obliged the Samorin to remove from the town of Calicut to Panana. The Samorin is said to have had great power, when in authority, and to be able to raise an army of at least 100,000 men. Calicut, once the capital of the dominion, though small and much reduced from its original greatness, is a very handsome town, being well built and beautifully situated in the midst of romantic scenery. There are many tastefully laid out gardens in the city, which add greatly to its beauty. The face of the country is very picturesque and awfully grand. The mountains towering to the skies, and veiling their tops in the clouds, (while they are clothed with trees), seem to threaten destruction to the town beneath. Cataracts, reflecting the sun's rays, and tumbling into deep vallies, with hollow sounds, greatly diversify the beauties of the surrounding scene; while woods, limpid streams, and craggy cliffs, conspire to render the prospect sufficient to delight and astonish the observer of nature. Groves extend through wide plains, to the very beach, and the spreading branches of the cocoa-nut tree afford a retired and pleasing walk by its delightful shade.

21st—Weighed anchor, and continued our course along the shore.

22d—This day passed close to Sacrifice Rock, the

appearance of which, together with the melancholy reflection that numbers of unfortunate creatures expired on it, could not but strike the soul with horror; it is a barren rock, about half a mile in circumference and five miles from the continent; some of the eastern princes sent their prisoners to it without a morsel of sustenance; the fate of these unfortunate men may easily be imagined—some died immediately after their arrival, and shortly after were eaten by the survivors, and in this manner the whole company perished one after another. The instances of cruelty committed on this rock are almost unparalleled.

28th—Anchored in Goa roads. On our arrival a party of officers were formed to visit the town, which we found much dilapidated, and far from what it must have been originally; it is situated under the torrid zone, and was once considered uninhabitable, owing to the unhealthiness of the climate. When in prosperity, no Indian city could be compared with it, as it equalled many of the best European cities in its size, and the excellence of its buildings. Providence has provided against the inconvenience of the heat, by supplying continual rain, which falls abundantly from June till September or October; the sky is often darkened for whole weeks with thick clouds, and when the rain ceases, the heat is almost intolerable; hence it is excessive in April and May, when the sun is in the zenith and the rainy season has not yet commenced.

Goa is the chief Portuguese settlement in India; trade is, at this place, much on the decline; the British export timber from it, for there is no place in India where the poon and teeka tree, of which the best ships have been built, grows in greater abundance and perfection; the principal buildings in good order are the convents, friaries, churches, and the house of the inquisition, where the persecuting spirit of Romanism has put to the most excruciating tortures many innocent persons. The inquisitorial house is very large and magnificent, and has, in the front, three gates; the middle one is the largest, and leads to the hall; the side gates opened to the rooms where the inquisitors dwelt, which are sufficient to accommodate a great number of persons. The chambers of this immense building are very numerous, amounting to about two hundred. Prisoners, on their first entrance into this abode of misery, were supplied with an earthen pot full of water, for the purpose of washing therein, and another full of the same liquid as a beverage; a broom was also provided to sweep the floor of the cell, and a sort of mat, which was to serve as a bed for the criminal; a large bason which contained the dust of the cell was taken away every four days. When any of the prisoners died, they were buried without ceremony in the prison, and if judged deserving of death, were afterwards dug up and burned at the act of faith. There were many officers connected with the inqui-

sition, holding different stations; two inquisitors held the highest post, the first a secular priest, and the other a religious one of the order of St. Dominic. The deputies of the holy office assisted at the trials of the arraigned; the calficadores examined the books and those things which were considered contrary to sound doctrine; the advocates, so far from assisting their clients, rather injured their cause by learning all their secrets and then revealing them to the inquisition; the familiars were the sergeants of the institution, and men of the highest rank. The office of familiar was usually filled by the nobility, and thought very honourable; they received no pay, but considered the privilege of the duty payment in itself. Whenever any one was about to be seized, a familiar of the highest station was sent alone to arrest him, and for the most part succeeded in his undertaking without the least opposition, the arraigned being generally afraid of the mob, who, in the event of resistance, were always ready to rise in a body and assist, *per vi et armis*, the assumed authority of the inquisition. Those officers always carried a medal of gold, on which the arms of the inquisition were engraved; besides the above mentioned officers, there were also secretaries, an alcaide (or jailor) and guards.

A deep silence always prevailed within the gloomy walls of the inquisitorial house, and those who may have happened at any time to bemoan their wretched

fate aloud, or pray to God in a high tone of voice, were beaten most severely by the guards, who always ran instantly to the place from whence the noise issued, and by the most violent measures put a stop to further interruption. The blows dealt on these occasions by the brutal and hardhearted guards, together with the shrieks of the sufferers, resounded so loudly through the prison, as to be a sufficient warning to the remainder of the culprits not to walk in the footsteps of their unfortunate companions. The alcaide and guards used to sleep in the galleries, and, though but few in number, were able to keep a large body of prisoners in subjection.

When any one was brought before the inquisitors they questioned him as to his name and profession, and then, for the purpose of inducing him to mention all his goods and secrets, they promised, on the part of the Lord Jesus Christ, that if he was proved innocent, all his property would be restored to him, provided that he had accurately, and without the omission of the most minute circumstance, told the whole truth, while, on the contrary, if he omitted to mention any thing, (though proved innocent,) all his goods would be confiscated; thus the foul inquisitors, ever greedy after gain, laid the most subtle trap for the discovery of the amount of goods possessed by the arraigned, for the sole purpose of getting property into their own hands by the unfair condemnation of the innocent. The

proceedings before the inquisitors were most unjust, the witnesses were never confronted, while they might be persons of the worst character, and even interested in the death of the accused. No objections were allowed to be made by the prisoner against the disqualifications of the witnesses, and the number sufficient to condemn, though professedly seven, was often reduced to five, in which were included their supposed accomplices, who may have been often induced to depose against the prisoner by the torture, and also the criminal himself, when constrained to confess a crime never committed, was numbered among the witnesses: thus the bloody inquisition carried on its dark designs, and never, I am sure, will the many deeds of cruelty, the many heart-rending tales of woe and torture, perpetrated within these walls, be fully known until that day when the secrets of all hearts shall be revealed, and the foul deeds of man exposed to the gaze of assembled worlds. In the contemplation of the cruelties practiced by the inquisition, and the abominations already brought to light, (though at a much later period than that to which I now refer), the heart grows sick, the blood runs cold, and the most active energies must be called forth for the overthrow and prostration of that system, which is the fruitful source and spring of this, and all other abominations—the church of Rome.

The following narrative concerning this unjust

tribunal is given by a Mr. Dillon, who was confined upwards of two years in a dungeon, ten feet square, without seeing any person but the jailor, during which time he endured a painful suspense equal to death, expecting daily to be brought to the stake; his alleged crime was that of having charged the inquisition with cruelty, in a conversation he had had with a priest at Damar, a Portuguese town in another part of India:—

"During the months of November and December, I heard (says Mr. Dillon) every morning the shrieks of the unfortunate victims undergoing the question in the chamber of torture. The *auto da fe* is generally celebrated on the first Sunday in Advent, because on that day the part of the Gospel relating to the last judgment is read, of which the inquisition pretends that this ceremony exhibits a lively emblem. I was convinced there were a great many other prisoners beside myself within the walls of the prison, and the profound silence enabled me to count the number of doors that were opened at the hours of meals; however, the first and second years of my captivity passed by without hearing any thing, and I prepared to undergo another melancholy year, when on the 11th of July I was aroused from despair by the noise of the guards removing the bars from the doors of my prison.

"The Alciade presented me with a habit which he

ordered me to put on and to make myself ready to attend him when he should return; thus saying, he left a lighted lamp in my dungeon; the guards returned about two o'clock in the morning and led me into the gallery, where I found a number of unfortunate companions of my fate drawn up in rank against a wall. I placed myself among them, and several others soon joined the melancholy band, which resembled statues more than human beings. The women were clothed in a similar manner and placed in a neighbouring gallery. I remarked a number of persons standing by themselves at some distance, attended by others, who wore long black dresses, and walked backward and forward occasionally; I was informed the former were victims and condemned to be burnt, and the others their confessors. After being arranged against the wall in the gallery, we each received a large wax taper; they then brought us a number of dresses made of yellow cloth, with a cross painted on them, called the san benito; the relapsed heretics wear another sort of robe called the sammarra, the ground of which was grey; the portrait of the sufferer was painted on it, surrounded by demons, with burning torches and flames; caps were produced called caroches, made of pasteboard, pointed like sugar loaves, with devils and flames of fire painted on them. The great bell of the cathedral began to ring a little before sunrise, as a signal to warn the people of Goa to come and behold

the august ceremony of the *auto da fe*. We were now marched one by one from the gallery of the great hall, at the door of which sat the inquisitor, with the secretary by him, who delivered every one into the hands of a particular person to be his guard to the place of burning; these persons are called parrians or god-fathers. Mine was the commander of a ship. From the great hall we went forth into the street, where the procession was commenced by the Dominican friars, because St. Dominic founded the inquisition; these were followed by the prisoners one by one, each having his god-father by his side, and a lighted taper in his hand; the least guilty went foremost, and the women were mixed promiscuously with the men; we all walked barefooted, the sharp stones wounding our feet and causing them to bleed. As we marched through the principal streets of Goa we were regarded by an innumerable crowd of people, collected from all parts of India to behold this spectacle. We at length arrived at the church of St. Francis, at which this act of *faith*, falsely so called, was destined to be celebrated. On one side of the altar were the grand inquisitor and his counsellors; on the other the Viceroy of Goa and his court; the prisoners were seated in front to hear the sermon; I observed those who wore the horrible caroches came in last in the procession; the sermon, which was delivered by an Augustine monk, having been concluded, two officers of the inquisition ascended

the pulpit one after the other and read the sentence of the prisoners * My joy was indeed extreme when I heard that my sentence was not to be burnt, but to be a galley slave for five years. As soon as the sentence was pronounced the miserable victims were brought forth who were destined to be immolated by the holy inquisition; the images of the heretics who died in

* After prayers and invectives against heretics, the sentence, which is as follows, was read:—"We, the inquisitors of heretical pravity, sitting on our tribunal, and judging with the holy gospels lying before us, that so our judgment may be in the sight of God, and our eyes might behold what is just, have ordained, that on this day you should have your definitive sentence. We do, therefore, in writing, declare, pronounce, and sentence thee —— to be a convicted and professed heretic, and to be delivered, and left as such, to the secular arm, casting thee out of the ecclesiastical court, but at the same time do most earnestly beseech that court so to moderate its sentence as not to touch thy blood or put thy life to any danger." It is manifest from this sentence that the Church of Rome adds hypocrisy to her many crimes. Yea, like her type, the apostate and hypocritical Judas, she would betray with a kiss while she delivers the innocent to the secular power. When all exhortations to recant have failed, the jesuits at parting, were in the habit of telling the condemned that they left them to the devil who was standing at their elbow to receive their souls and carry them with him into the flames of hell fire as soon as they are out of their bodies; the multitude then set up a great shout, exclaiming, "let the dog's beards be made," by which they meant the thrusting of blazing furz, fastened to the end of a pole, against their faces. After this, the fuel at the bottom of the stake being set on fire, the poor criminals were burned, or rather roasted, to death. This is the conduct of the Holy Roman Catholic Church, adorned with the meek and merciful spirit of the gospel!!!

prison were brought up at the same time, their bones being contained in chests on which were represented demons and flames. An officer seized those people, on each of which was bestowed a slight blow on the breast, by the alciade, to signify that they were abandoned; they were then led to the place of burning near the river, where the viceroy and his court were assembled, the faggots having been prepared the preceding day. When they arrived at the place of burning, the condemned persons were asked in what religion they chose to die; the moment they answered, the executioner seized and bound them to the stake in the middle of the faggots. The day after the execution the portraits of the victims are carried to the church of the Dominicans; the heads are only taken, which are represented as surrounded by flames and demons, and underneath are written the names of the persons and their crimes, who have been burnt."

The church of Rome, not contented with the punishment described by Mr. Dillon, followed the examples of the eastern princes. It is a well known fact that the inquisition transported many an unfortunate victim to the sacrifice rock, already spoken of. The feeling heart will rejoice to hear that this murderous tribunal no longer exists; it was abolished at Goa only a few days before our arrival. England, ever ready to stretch forth her hand to the aid of suffering innocence, and to the suppression of tyranny by a mild

interference, was the instrument, under God, of putting down the inquisition.*

* When in the town of Goa, we met many of the victims lately released from the grasp of the inquisition; their appearance was truly distressing; the black inquisitorial dress (which they still continued to wear for want of better,) the pale faces and emaciated forms of those poor sufferers, bespoke the tyranny of Rome. Protestants surely have need to rejoice at the downfall of so base a system, which was professedly instituted for the extermination of their faith, and in the truth that Protestant Britain is ever willing to render assistance to the oppressed. The inhabitants of Goa refused to give us even a drink of water, fearing the contamination of heretics and the power of the priests, who still retained undue influence over their minds. The Church of Rome did not voluntarily give up her dominion over the *bodies* of men. No; according to her professions of infallibility, she is unchangeable; hence that church (which, by the inquisition, the massacre of St. Bartholomew, and the no less bloody atrocities of Mary, Queen of England—Rome's deluded votary, tortured and destroyed so many for the unpardonable crime of obeying God's command, "search the Scriptures,") is still willing to commit the same crimes, and to be again drunken with the blood of the saints, if the power of so doing should become hers.

CHAP. XIV.

Arrival at Bombay, &c.—Account of the Flying Fox—Arrival at Point Romanio, &c.—Malay Pirates at the Island of Timor—a Sumatra Squall.

2nd January, 1813—This night weighed, with a fine land wind; and on the fifth anchored in Bombay harbour. We here received the news of war with America. Owing to this information, our stay was very short, and notwithstanding that the ship wanted considerable repairs, we were ordered to put to sea, and on the 9th weighed.

31st—Anchored in Madras Roads, where we received orders to cruize in the Chinese seas. We remained here only to complete our supply of water and provisions, and, with that delusive charm, hope,—the truly undefined hope of the honest tar, which often cheers and guides his tame and solitary hours while ploughing the mighty deep—weighed anchor, but owing to contrary winds had a most tedious passage across the Bay of Bengal.

8th March—This day made the islands of Pooloo-Bessy, Pooloo-way, and Pooloo-Nancy. They are of no note, and situated about six leagues northward of Acheen Head, the N.W. promontory of the extensive island of Sumatra.

13th—Passed close to Prince of Wales' Island. We now entered the straits of Malacca, and after passing innumerable islands, rocks and shoals, every where interspersed, made the Caraman Islands, which form the entrance of the straits of Singapoura. During our stay among them, we were, every evening, visited by numerous flocks of flying foxes, which were returning from the main to their habitations on the neighbouring islands. The flying fox is a species of bird which deserves particular notice. Indeed I am at a loss to know why this bird should be numbered among the feathered tribes; for it is entirely divested of plumage. It is about the size of a small goose; its wings resemble that of a bat, and its body is thickly clothed with a very short sort of down, or rather wool; it is perfectly black, and seems to labour much when flying; its progress is so slow, that we expected some would have fallen on board.

19th—The numerous islands which presented themselves this morning, completely obscured from our view a passage through; but on a near approach we could discern each island. Light airs detained us among them the whole day; and from the intricacy of the passage, we were obliged to come to an anchor, where we remained till next day, when we again weighed.

24th—Anchored within half a mile of Point Romanio for the purpose of wooding and watering, both of

which we found in the greatest plenty. Point Romanio is the southernmost extremity of the Malay peninsula, but totally destitute of inhabitants; it is not penetrable above one hundred yards, the jungle being so thick, which affords fine shelter for wild animals. As we continued watering and wooding, during the night time, it was found necessary to light fires for the safety of our people, the roaring of the several wild beasts being distinctly heard close to where we were employed.

28th—Having completed our water, &c., in the evening we weighed, and had just made sail, when we observed two large pirate prows, full of men, which bore down, supposing our's to be a merchant ship; but on discovering their mistake, hauled to the wind, and under the cover of night, escaped.

29th—Made Pooloo Aore, a small island in the Chinese seas; having stood close into it, we discovered that many places were inhabited and cultivated: we could discern only a few huts. The inhabitants of this island showed no disposition to communicate with us, probably from fear, as their principal employment is pirating.

We continued cruizing between Pooloo Aore and Borneo, with the eager expectation of intercepting an enemy.

4th April—Found, to our great mortification, that the greater number of our water casks had leaked, by which mishap we were reduced to a small allowance.

11th—Being close in with the island of Timor, we discovered a stream of water; it being a convenient place, we came to an anchor, for the purpose of watering and repairing our casks. Pooloo Timor is a small island, about twenty miles in circumference. It is inhabited by savage Malay pirates; and although we were at the distance of ten miles from their village, they came and lay in ambush in the jungle, close to where we were at work, for the purpose of murder and plunder. The second day of our stay, they unfortunately succeeded in carrying off one of our men. From the thickness of the jungle, I do not think he could have been more than thirty yards from the boat at the time. His fate, no doubt, was instant death. He had not been long missing when search was made, and while exploring the wood, several black fellows were discovered; but we could not succeed in making them prisoners, owing to the thickness of the jungle, to which they were accustomed. This was the first time any of the inhabitants of these islands were seen by us. The fate of our poor shipmate was no longer a matter of doubt. We at first conjectured that he had fallen a prey to some of the wild animals, which the island abounds in.

The third morning of our stay we were surprised at seeing a number of the natives collected at the watering place, and busily employed in putting on board their prow, some small casks we had left on shore. One of

our boats was instantly manned and armed, and after a long pull of four hours, succeeded in getting within musket shot of them, which began to play so warmly, that they were obliged to land and take refuge in the jungle, where they remained only a few minutes. On our approach to the shore, great numbers appeared armed with spears and creeses; but before we landed, we fired a volley, which, no doubt, killed and wounded many, and put the rest to flight. Having succeeded in getting the casks and taking the arms out of the prow, we left the shore. Great numbers of the natives now came down, with boughs of trees in their hands, which were held out as an emblem of peace; but we considered that their intention was to decoy. In this they were frustrated, for no notice was taken of them.*

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* The following account, given in Saunders's newspaper of the 14th April, 1841, exemplifies the present savage character of the Malays:—

MASSACRE OF BRITISH SEAMEN.—Saturday intelligence of a mournful nature reached London, by which many families in the eastern district of the metropolis will have to lament the loss of relatives and friends. The Pilot, South-seaman, a large ship belonging to Thomas Ward, Esq., which left the London docks six months ago on a whaling voyage, was attacked by Malay pirates in the Straits of Timor, who surrounded the vessel in their prows. The ship was most gallantly defended by her captain and crew, but they were overpowered by superior numbers, and the savages boarded the ship, plundered it of all the provisions, and killed and wounded a majority of the crew. The captain, the first and second mates, and twenty-five seamen, fell victims to the barbarity of the Malays; the third mate, the surgeon and eight seamen escaped,

14th—Weighed, and continued cruizing, without meeting the long wished for enemy. Our crew became so sickly, that it was with difficulty we could work the ship; and those who were not under the care of the surgeon, became so debilitated that out of upwards of three hundred hands, our physical strength was not equal to forty fresh men. Repeated calms, under a vertical sun, rendered our condition insupportable. We had no nourishment or fresh provisions for nearly three months; this together with a scanty supply of medicine, which was almost exhausted on the numerous sick, rendered our situation very alarming. A few potatoes, which we received from a ship bound for China, sliced raw, were the only medicine given to the scurvy patients, which amounted to upwards of one hundred. We now began to lose two or three men every day. Scurvy, dysentery, and fevers, raged with such fury, that the lives of the whole crew appeared to be in jeopardy; several, while attempting to walk to the sick bay, dropped down dead.

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and afterwards navigated the ship to Singapoura. The survivors are coming home in a man-of-war, which they entered after reaching Singapoura. These are the only particulars that have transpired relating to this disastrous event. The Pilot had only three tons of oil in her when she was attacked. The Malays are a savage and treacherous race, and a terror to Marines navigating the Straits of Timor. A few years ago Captain Aaron Smith of the Mary Anne, inflicted a heavy chastisement upon them. They attacked his ship, and he defeated them, with the loss of three hundred men, and twenty nine prows which he sunk.

In this state we continued till the 12th May; this long wished for day being the termination of our cruize, the speedy return to some welcome port cheered all hands. It is not easy to describe the joy of the sick when sail was made, and our course shaped for the Straits of Singapoura, the very idea of a speedy supply of refreshments caused many to crawl out of their hammocks, who had been confined for weeks before. Owing to light winds we did not get through the Straits till the 19th.

21st—At seven this morning, observed black clouds rising in the S.W. over the Sumatra shore, and flying with great velocity in a direction quite contrary to the course of the wind, accompanied with thunder and lightning; this jarring of the elements was a true prognostic of an approaching storm, or more properly, a Sumatra squall; so rapidly did it approach us, that before we could take in sail, the ship was laid on her beam ends; the sheets and halliards were immediately let fly, and in less than a minute every sail was torn from the yards, by which providential event the ship righted sufficiently for the helm to have effect, and accordingly she was put before the wind. It now blew a perfect storm, and being surrounded by sands and shoals, we came to anchor, where we remained till evening.

When I now and then recall to mind, in the calm and dispassionate moments of Christian contemplation, the dangers that I have passed through, both from the

rude shock of nature, and the appalling and envenomed shafts of malignant disease, I feel at once amazed and ashamed at the trivial indifference and self-complacency with which I and my shipmates received the most marked and distinguished favours at the hands of our gracious God. Surely no infant ever hung on its mother's breast in a more dependant state than we did on the arm of the Lord: and when I recollect, too, in connexion with this slighting of Divine mercy, that God spared me for the gracious purpose of exhibiting himself in me, as reconciled in the death of his Son, surely I may now sing with the sweet Psalmist of Israel, "Whoso is wise and will observe these things, even they shall understand the loving kindness of the Lord." Psalm cvii. 43. Yes, and I can, blessed be God, now join with the understanding in the glorious burst of mingled prayer, praises and triumph, indulged in by the same illustrious singer, when he says, "Oh, that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men: for he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness." Psalm cvii. 8, 9.

CHAP. XV.

Arrival at Malacca Roads—Departure of the Ship without Nine of the Officers, who had gone ashore—Cruise in the Jolly Rover, and distressed state of her Crew—Providential success in reaching the Africaine.

22nd.—Anchored in Malacca roads. This was a time of great joy to all on board, as we had been only a few hours here when we were plentifully supplied with buffalo, vegetables, and fruit.

The following morning a party of officers, (nine in number) went ashore for the purpose of seeing the town and country, where we remained for the night. The next day we hired a boat to put us on board, but to our astonishment the ship had sailed. Our dismay was truly great, fearing that we would be obliged to remain in this unhealthy place for a considerable time, to await the arrival of a man-of-war. We at length determined to purchase a boat and follow the ship. The natives sold us one, sixteen feet long and five broad, for three hundred dollars; and having laid in a store of poultry, hams, dried fish, wine, brandy, water, &c., as far as our finances would permit, which were not at the lowest ebb, we embarked on the 25th.

25th—On making sail from the town, we were saluted with three cheers by a concourse of people who had assembled for the purpose of witnessing our departure.

They appeared much astonished at our undertaking so long a voyage in so small a boat. The salute was returned by the crew of the Jolly Rover, (a name we had previously given our little bark), and after sailing out of the river, we steered to the northward with a leading wind. As our little Rover ploughed the foaming waves, our minds were naturally filled with care, in the doubtful prospect of ever again beholding our shipmates—the dangers to which we were exposed were many. At this season of the year squalls are frequent, which, together with the expectation of falling in with pirates, and the want of nautical instruments, rendered our state very dangerous.

At two o'clock we lost sight of the town, and arranged things for dinner, which being ready at four, we made a most sumptuous repast. As the sun declined, the breeze began to freshen, which obliged us to reduce our sails, and at seven, while regailing ourselves with grog, we were taken by the lee with a heavy white squall, which was truly terrific. We immediately came to anchor at about one mile from the shore, which we supposed to be Tanjong Cling. Suddenly the whole heaven was veiled in black, except a small circle in the centre, through which the light of day still appeared. The circle closed; the vivid lightning; the deep rolling thunder; the torrents of rain, and the mountain waves which immediately followed, increased the awfulness of the scene; the heavens appeared as if warring with the

earth. Our situation was very alarming; we had reason to fear that our grapline rope would not stand the jirks caused by the heavy pitching of the boat, and in the event of being wrecked on the inhospitable shore we would fall into the hands of pirates. We remained in this situation for some hours, when the wind having shifted to the S. E. and the sea becoming less boisterous, we were enabled to proceed, and kept close to the shore, fearful of being at any time obliged to come to an anchor again, as we had much to dread from the Sumatra squalls. Providence now seemed to prosper us, as the breeze continued favorable. About midnight our spirits were cheered, and we spliced the main brace;* but this tranquillity was not of long duration. Two hours before day light the sky was again darkened by the blackest hue, and the approach of another squall obliged us to come to anchor under a high land which we supposed to be Cape Rechardo. We were now so close to the shore that we could distinctly hear the roaring of the wild beasts, and above all could distinguish that of the elephant. We had just got our masts down when the squall took us by the lee, when we instantly tended to the wind; the sea was snow white, and our little boat rode over the billows like a duck; it increased to a perfect gale, and we remained in this state, expecting

* Splicing the main-brace, means taking an additional allowance of grog.

every moment to be launched into eternity, while the seas were towering over us like mountains.

26th—Day light at length made its appearance, and when Aurora, with her golden face, smiled upon us, she was welcomed with tenfold joy; the wind moderated, which enabled us to steer our course to the northward. We were all this day employed in drying our clothes and erecting a mat covering over the after-part of our boat to shade us from the sun, which was hot in the extreme. As the mighty orb of day declined, the wind increased, which caused us to reduce our sails; the sea being very high, broke over us, consequently we were busily employed in bailing the boat; the wind increased to such violence that our covering was blown completely away. One misfortune seemed now to follow close upon another; a sea struck us on the quarter which washed away a ham, a round of beef, and a basket containing fowl. This was a great calamity; for we had very little left to subsist on, unless we plundered the savage inhabitants we were so close to. We came to anchor, and remained the whole of this night as before, without sleep, anxiously waiting the dawn of day, which only opened to our view greater misery, as we saw several large prows in shore of us at anchor; the only alternative left to get from their grasp was, to pull out to sea. We had but just weighed when we observed the prows follow our example, and stand in a direction after us. Well knowing our fate if

they came up, we gave way with "a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether," resolving if we were brought to an action either to die or conquer. From the time we weighed, the wind gradually died away to a calm, but we had a very heavy swell; about ten o'clock two of the prows were within musket shot, and apparently overhauling us very fast; hope and fear alternately took possession of our minds, and many an anxious look was cast on our pursuers: had we been properly armed we would have given battle. At about eleven, we were fortunately favoured with a fine sea breeze which gave us the weather gage of them; we immediately hoisted our sails, and the enemy, on seeing this, shortly after bore up for the shore, to our inexpressible joy. Our course was again continued to the northward, with a fresh sea breeze, going at the rate of five knots an hour; and at about four o'clock we came to anchor close to the entrance of the straits of Colong, which are formed by the Mundancoo island on the N. W., and Lamant on the S. E. These straits being noted for pirates, we determined to take advantage of the darkness of the night to go through, which we fortunately succeeded in doing without any interruption.

28th—Came to anchor at the mouth of a large river, which we supposed to be Salangore, where we got a fine supply of fresh water, but did not make any delay, as we discovered some villages on the banks,

inhabited by pirates. We made but very little progress this day, the air being very light from the westward; towards evening a fresh breeze sprang up, of which we took advantage, by making all sail. When night came on, having gone too far from the shore, which we could not see, and not having a compass, our course was directed by the stars. At midnight we discovered breakers on the weather bow; we bore up to avoid them, but had not continued the course long, when we found ourselves surrounded with rocks and islands. Ignorant of our situation, owing to the want of nautical instruments, it was thought advisable to come to anchor, and if possible to refresh our wearied bodies with sleep; we had just lain down when we were disturbed by the firing of musketry and the noise of a boat, pulling in a direction across our bow; we had not much trouble in getting our fighting implements ready, as they consisted only of two pistols and side arms; we observed a perfect silence, anxiously waiting the approach of the enemy; but to our great surprise, remained unmolested: being at quarters all night, we got no rest. When day light made its appearance we found ourselves close to a village, and weighed, with all possible dispatch, with a fine breeze from the S. W., and directed our course between the main and the islands; at ten o'clock we discovered Pooloo Dingding. The islands which we anchored at during the night were the Sambelongs, which name

they acquired from the fact of being nine in number; Sambelong, in the Malay language, means nine. We found the heat this day more intolerable and annoying than before; the sun was verticle, and we had no means of shading ourselves from it; but the breeze being favourable, was in some degree a recompense for our sufferings. At night, for the first time, we were favoured with the land wind, which enabled us to continue our course.

29th—At day light we could not discern land, but the wind still favoured us; sickness began now to make its appearance; three of our messmates were attacked with fever and dysentery; all the relief we could afford was a bacchanalian cordial. At ten o'clock we were greeted with a sight of land, which we well knew must be Pooloo Panang; this was the most welcome cordial to our sick ship-mates, who lay in the bottom of the boat in a state of despondency; but we were uncertain whether we should reach it in safety, or at least without interruption, as six large pirate prows were in sight, and two of them seemed inclined to approach us. At three o'clock we passed within pistol shot of one of them without the least opposition; they no doubt took us for fishermen, as we had observed the precaution of covering our faces with black handkerchiefs; three only appeared above the gunwhale of the boat; to this prudential movement, under God, we owed our preservation.

On leaving Malacca, we very imprudently stripped naked, or at least, according to the oriental costume; our bodies were exposed to a burning sun, which blistered us to such a degree that we could scarcely move; our appearance was very strange, for we looked more like Asiatics than Europeans. At five, p. m., we were overtaken by a heavy squall, which obliged us to lower our sails, but having got the sails close-reefed, we scudded under them till about eight, when the gale increased to great violence, and we were reduced to bare poles. Our boat now laboured very much and shipped some heavy seas; we carefully broached too, and let go the grapline, but did not get bottom; we unrove the sheets and halliards, by which means the grapline was lenthened, and, to our inexpressible pleasure, succeeded in bringing up in about twenty fathom water. Our situation was most wretched; the gale increased, the sea ran high, and the heavens portended a dreadful night* We shipped great quantities of water, which required the exertions of all who could move to keep us afloat; the excessive fatigue and dreadful pain, occasioned by the sprays of salt water

* The appearance of the waves was awfully grand, occasioned by the mucus substance which floated on them, and had the appearance of one great mass of fire. The night being extremely dark, heightened the brilliancy of the luminary, and the sprays on our bodies had the same appearance.

on our blistered bodies, increased our misery, and we were almost driven to despair; we had no nourishment left to cheer us, not even fresh water, for it became brackish by the many heavy seas we shipped. We remained in this situation till we heard the report of day light guns at Panang; this was a most welcome sound, and notwithstanding our state, the pleasurable feeling caused by the mere idea of being so near friends banished all care. The gale broke, and day light opened to our view a new scene; we greeted our eyes with the beautiful island and the mast heads of the ships in the harbour. About six we weighed: our course was no longer a difficult one, and at half-past eleven got along side the Africaine, and received the greetings of our joyful ship-mates.

Thus a painful voyage in an open boat terminated. Our appearance was truly distressing on going on board; the want of sleep for four days and five nights; the enfeebled state of our strength by rowing and anxiety; the effects of the vertical sun, manifested by large blisters on our bodies, and the deprivation of water, rendered us objects of pity. We, indeed, had need to return our grateful thanks to that mighty Being, who, by his word, can calm the storm and still the raging waves, who mercifully outstretched his arm to our deliverance. Alas, how prone we are, in the enjoyment of His gifts, to forget the hand that gives;

and when contemplating the wonders of nature, to forget nature's God. Oh, may we ever adore the goodness of Him "whose way is in the sea, and whose path is in the waters."

CHAP. XVI.

Synopsis of the Prince of Wales' Island—Arrival at Malacca—Sumatra—Correspondence between the King of Acheen and Captain Rodney.

PRINCE of Wales' Island is about fifteen miles long, and six broad; it is situated near the coast of Queda, at about three miles distance, and was given by the king of that place to Captain Light, who received and took possession of it in the name of the Hon. East India Company. Georgetown is erected on a low point, and affords rather a pleasant residence, owing to its situation. The carelessness of an old woman, some time ago, had well nigh caused the total destruction of the town; for when frying plantains, she unwittingly permitted her own habitation to catch fire, which spread so rapidly, and in defiance of all exertion to extinguish it, that almost the whole place was consumed, which reduced the inhabitants to great poverty, and constrained a large portion of them to leave the island, and seek shelter in other neighbouring places, as Java and Malacca. Consequently, the Prince of Wales' Island, called by the natives, Pooloo Panang, became quite deserted, but is now rather improving, many of the houses having been rebuilt; but the effect of the conflagration is still to be seen. The climate is very

salubrious, and Europeans are enabled to walk out under the noon day sun, without any covering to protect them from its effects, which they are unable to do in other parts of India. In short, the island abounds with those things which are conducive to the enjoyment of life, and affords many comforts to its possessors. To a person standing on an eminence, the scene is beautiful—pasturage and cultivation extend all around, while trees, thickly laden with delicious and nutritious food, diversify the prospect, and planted by the hand of nature in clusters, gratify the beholder. Pine apple and cocoa nut trees are produced in great plenty, and, together with extensive plantations of betle, prove the fertility of the soil.

I took several tours on horseback through this island, and was greatly struck with the beauty of the scenery. Craggy precipices, streams and dales, beautifully blending their colours with tasteful distribution, inimitable by art, and unequalled by fiction, struck me with wonder and delight: the majesty of nature appeared here in most splendid attire. We undertook a shooting excursion to the Queda shore, where we found game in great plenty. The jungles are inhabited by great numbers of wild animals, especially elephants and tigers, which render the place extremely dangerous, and obliged us to be on our guard. We met with much success in our excursion, and returned on board, laden with a quantity of game.

Very little is known of this country, owing to the want of intercourse with its piratical inhabitants, who seem desirous of secluding themselves as much as possible from the world. They are Malays, and of the most treacherous and barbarous race. Those on the sea coast exist solely by pirating; they have been known to come to the market of Pooloo Panang, in small boats, under the pretence of purchasing, but with the intention of capturing defenceless vessels, which they have succeeded in doing, by taking advantage of the darkness of the night.

The Malay chief, or king, resides at the town of Queda, which is the capital of his dominions; he is the sole proprietor of all the gold and silver found here. Formerly there was a good trade carried on, but latterly it has much declined. The country is very rich. Gold dust, pepper, betle nut, and gum, are the chief produce; but the natives being averse to labour, these are not plentifully supplied. Nature has furnished the inhabitants with the means of becoming a very opulent, powerful and useful nation; but they prefer living in a state of indolence; in fact they know not the comfort of industry and merely provide for present wants; they are almost naked; the whole of their dress consists of an ell of linen; they live on the cocoa nut, and other wild fruits.

Their amours are of the most extraordinary nature, and their habits and customs, relative to the marriage

bed, regulated, I presume, more by fashion and usage than by taste, they are of too wicked, ridiculous, and indelicate a nature to be here entered upon: if they could be mentioned, they would be indisputable proofs that they are not far short of living in a state of barbarism. It has always been understood that no nation equalled the female Asiatics in their constancy to the nuptial bed; for they consider inconstancy the worst of crimes, being a direct violation of their religion; but probably this strict adherence to virtue in other parts of India is owing to the fear of the punishments which are inflicted for adultery, but unknown in the kingdom of Queda. I do not attempt to set up the females of India as a model for virtue; for no country produces a greater number of the unfortunate sisterhood. It is a common thing for parents to sell their daughters for a trifle, at the early ages of ten, eleven, and twelve; after this they become abandoned, and thus owe their misery to those who gave them birth.*

The religious superstitions which prevail among the natives of Queda are extremely gross; they worship fire, animals, and serpents, nothing can equal the

* How thankful should the female population of Britain be to God, who has privileged them to be born in a land, where Protestant and Bible atmosphere has cast such a bright halo around them, and has raised them, so to speak, in the scale of creation and of moral excellency, that they are the very honour of their own sex, and the crown of our common humanity.

absurdity of their burial ceremonies. When a king dies, numbers of animals, and such articles as they think will be serviceable in a future life, are buried with him; the articles are generally vessels of gold and silver—his own property.

The funeral ceremony among the subjects of his majesty is performed with little splendour; earthen pots are substituted for vessels of gold. As no means are at present taken to enlighten those people, they are likely to continue uncivilized. Indeed such an experiment would be dangerous, Europeans being prohibited from living among them.

As the climate of Panang was conducive to the restoration of health, we were induced to continue here longer than the necessary time. It is remarkable, that during our stay, we did not lose a man; and in less than a fortnight, health was restored and the strength of the ship's company re-established.

19th June.—Weighed, having received orders to join an expedition fitting out at Malacca, against Sambas, a pirate town, on the island of Borneo.

27th.—Anchored in Malacca Roads; remained here a month, anxiously waiting for orders to sail for Sambas; but to our great disappointment, information was received, that the pirates were completely subdued by an expedition from Java, and we were again ordered to Panang, where we arrived after a few days' passage.

21st August.—Weighed, and after clearing the har-

bour, our course was directed for Sumatra, for the purpose of claiming the restoration of a ship and cargo, the king of Acheen had captured.

24th.—At eight, p. m., anchored in Tullesamoy Roads. Shortly after our arrival, we were visited by two of the principal men of his majesty's court, who expressed much astonishment at seeing so large a ship.

The next morning we were visited by two more of his majesty's subjects, whom we supposed belonged to his court. They particularly wished to know if we were on a mission to his majesty, and not having received a satisfactory answer as to the reality of our intentions, on their return to shore, a salute of thirteen guns was fired, in honour of the British flag, which was not returned. A present of buffalo, goats, sheep and fruit, was sent off to us, as a proof of his majesty's favourable disposition towards the English.

At ten a. m., a lieutenant went on shore. He was received with the most marked attention by the suite of his majesty, a salute of eleven guns was fired, and the streets were lined with troops. The lieutenant, when presented to the king of Acheen, was honoured with a chair, while the counsel and principal officers of state sat on the floor, cross-legged. Letters and papers from the Panang government, were presented to the king by the lieutenant, relative to the restoration of the ship, Annapoorny. The lieutenant informed him that an insult had been offered to the British flag, by tearing it

from the staff of the vessel in question, and trampling it under foot, His majesty denied that the ship had English colours, when taken. The following correspondence will point out the circumstance that led to its detention :—

FROM THE KING OF ACHEEN, TO CAPTAIN RODNEY, IN REPLY TO A VERBAL MESSAGE, REQUIRING THE RESTITUTION OF THE SHIP AND CARGO.

"HONORABLE SIR—I have this day been favoured with your's, by his Britannic majesty's ship, Africaine. As I have fully stated the case to the supreme government at Calcutta, it is useless here to repeat that, even admitting the Annapoorny ship had English colours, which she had not, it would give her no right to evade the established laws of my country. They now allege that they paid me 4,000 dollars for liberty to trade; how came the head Noquedah to complain at Tappanooly, where he went in a boat, that I had plundered him of 4,000 dollars, and obtained a letter to me from the resident at Toppanooly, who also says the same. They either now swear falsely, or claim a property not their own. With respect to Mr. Fenwick's ever meddling in the matter, it is a malicious falsehood; he never knew, I believe, there was such a vessel in the world, until I detained her the second time, and sent her for examination to Pooloo Dua; he never went to court, or even, I believe, spoke to the

judges on the subject. I and all my relations have known him for twenty years to be an honest, humane man. The story of my writer trampling on the colours is beneath contempt; he should not have lived one hour after such a transaction. I must repeat, that I will not suffer any foreign power to alter the laws and usages of my country, or intimidate me from preserving my revenue. The plea, that what the men had said in my court, and swore to, ought not now to be believed—it is absurd. If they then swore falsely, they must now be perjured. And with all due consideration,

"I remain, &c. &c.

"Tullashmoy, 25th August, 1813."

FROM CAPTAIN RODNEY TO THE KING OF ACHEEN.

"His Britannic Majesty's Ship, Africaine,
"25th August, 1813.

"SIR—The communication made to your Majesty, from his excellency the governor of Prince of Wales' Island, which I had the honour of transmitting to your Majesty, contains the impression which the detention and subsequent confiscation of the ship Annapoorny, had made on the Panang government, and

also the object of the arrival here of his Britannic majesty's ship, Africaine, under my command. It only remained for me to await your majesty's reply to that communication, which I had flattered myself would be favourable to the amicable adjustment of the injury complained of. I am sorry, however, to find that your majesty refuses the restitution of either ship or cargo; and from the concurring, though separate testimonies of the major part of the late crew of the Annapoorny, I cannot but view the transaction as a violation of the laws of nations, and an insult to his Britannic majesty's flag. It becomes my duty to inform you that no potentate, however powerful, has committed such an outrage with impunity, and were I to give vent to the feelings of resentment caused by the dishonour done to the English colours, I have force sufficient to make immediate reprisals on your majesty's subjects to ten times the amount of the ship and cargo, yet to convince your majesty of the pacific and amicable disposition of the British government towards the kingdom of Acheen, I will refrain from making use of that force further than taking possession of the ship, which I find completely empty, hoping that on a more mature consideration of the subject, you will see the policy, and indeed necessity of making the reparation required. I therefore call on your majesty, as you value the friendly and mutually advantageous intercourse which has hitherto subsisted between the two powers, to take the earliest

opportunity of communicating with the Panang government on this subject, and to make reparation to the injured parties, which the case loudly calls for. In the mean time I shall, in the discharge of my duty, lay all the circumstances before his Britannic Majesty's naval commander-in-chief of the East Indies, whose sentiments, I doubt not, will be in perfect unison with mine and that of the Panang government.

"I remain, &c., &c.

"EDWARD RODNEY.

"To his Majesty, the King of Acheen."

FROM THE KING OF ACHEEN TO CAPTAIN RODNEY.

"HONORABLE SIR—I laid before my council your letter, and they are perfectly of my opinion that any native ship, trading to the ports of the westward of Acheen in my territories, without having obtained a pass, is a violation of the long and established laws of my country. It was in consequence of abuses of a similar nature to that committed by the ship in question, that I went round to the west coast, about twenty months past, to put a stop to illicit trade, which bid fair to deprive me of the best part of my revenue. My ships, when in British ports, conform to English laws, and I expect the same when in my country. The insult I have received from the Panang government, in saying

that my court was influenced by two obscure individuals, is such as I believe was never before received by any independent sovereign. The laws of my country are well explained in many English publications, in which you will find that no ship was ever, in former days, allowed to trade to any port but Acheen itself, unless previous leave had been obtained.

"This ship, whatever claims she may have to be considered as under the protection of the British, had no such claims on my government; she had no English colours on board, no English pass or port clearance, signifying her colours; and she was under red colours with a moon in them when I took her, after having been trading on my coast four months without paying her duties. I shall forward an ambassador to the supreme government at Bengal, and if not redressed, I shall shut my ports to British ships; I can carry my own produce to market without them.

"Acheen was the first port where the English ships anchored under Sir John Lancaster, and were there hospitably received, and furnished with pilots to carry them to Bantam. I should be sorry that the amity so long established should be interrupted; but the Panang government should recollect when they addressed me, to use language becoming a sovereign to receive, and not to assert that my courts of justice and myself have been influenced by such a man, termed at one time, a

great rogue, and at another a great rascal. The whole matter I shall forward to the secretary of state at home,

"Believe me to be, &c., &c.

"H. ROZARIA.

"Deputy secretary to the king."

FROM THE KING OF ACHEEN TO CAPTAIN RODNEY.

"SIR,—As I expected you would have sailed last night, I was pressed for time to answer your's so explicitly as I could have wished. On a reference to Mr. Marsden's History of Sumatra, and Captain Forrest's voyage in 1784, to Acheen from Bengal, you will see there stated fully the different laws relating to this country. Native vessels, navigated by Mahometans, have the privilege of retailing their goods on shore, by paying the king's duties, by which their profits are very great. Ships belonging to Europeans, and commanded by a Christian, can only trade with the head men of the districts, or the king's merchants; they consequently pay no duties, as the head men of districts who trade with them answer to me for the duties; or my head merchants account to me for the profit. Consequently we cannot suffer a native vessel, on hoisting English colours, to evade the duties; yet a Mahometan has the privilege of trading and retailing their

goods on shore; they must either come to this country, accordingly, in one capacity or the other, and not be hoisting English colours on one day, and Mahometan another, whatever the circumstance may require, either English or Mahometan, to the total evading of all my established duties. You will, Sir, on a further examination of these men, find they had no pass, no port clearance, no British commander; the vessels are not registered, such being essential in our laws to put them on the footing of British ships, which to them, who do not value time but stay six months to retail their cargoes as Mahometans, which they cannot do as Christians, would be a great loss. I much doubt, were you to meet with a ship from a British port under English colours, without a pass, or port clearance, signifying the ship to have cleared under English colours, but you would think it your duty to detain her. The vessel came evidently to carry on a clandestine trade on my coast; they cleared out for a port she never went to, situated at the further extreme of my territories, and where the English colours are hoisted. On their examination in my court, they admitted that they sometimes hoisted the colours of Maya Saeb. If they had an English pass it must be registered at Madras; she never went to the destined port, Tappanooly, but continued to trade for upwards of four months at ports not open to the trade of ships, viz.: Baroos and Tapoos, which had no revenue officers. Sinkell

was in open rebellion, and Junki Sinkell, four days after the capture of the ship, came and engaged me with thirteen prows, and was taken prisoner. It is a maxim among all civilized countries to respect the decision made in each others courts, and not to suffer persons to come into countries and swear that the evidence given by themselves was false. If such is to be allowed, all confidence between nation and nation will be at an end. I have respected the decision of the British courts, when my property has suffered very unjustly in my opinion, and hope that on a full explanation of these circumstances to the government at Bengal, full restitution will be made.

"Permit me, sir, to express my thanks for the civil and polite manner in which you have executed your duty, which I am very certain must be unpleasant to you; and have only to regret that you should have complied with the request of the governor of Panang, which I am well informed was contrary to his better judgment, but advised by his colleagues in government. By your acceptance of the high consideration and esteem with which I have the honour to be, &c.

"H. ROZARIO.

"Deputy Secretary to the King of Acheen."

His Majesty, the King of Acheen, appeared much incensed against the government of Panang, and par-

ticularly for supposing that his government was directed by Mr. Fenwick, a Portuguese, and lord high admiral of his fleet, which consists of ten brigs of war, and fifty fighting prows.

On the evening of the 25th, we manned and armed our boats with a strong party of sailors, and forty marines, to take possession of the Annapoorny. This formidable force was formed for the purpose of storming the forts, if a shot should be fired, while taking possession of the ship, which was accomplished without any opposition; we towed her close to the Africaine: the remainder of the day was employed in rigging her. The king, on witnessing our hostile approach, sent the females of his seraglio, with his treasure, up the river in the canoes, and manned his forts with crowds of armed men, supposing that we would land and take possession of the cargo of the Amapoorny, detained in the royal stores. They appeared determined to offer a bold resistance in the event of an attack. Our orders being only to secure the vessel, we had no authority to proceed further. Notwithstanding the demonstration of hostility on both sides, I, accompanied by a lieutenant, waited on his majesty, who received us very politely; he ordered refreshments to be laid before us, and regretted much that his — religion (to use his own expression) would not permit him to take a glass of wine with us; he felt, however, every inclination to do so, and said if he was on board of the Africaine he would see us all blind

drunk; his manners were rather gentlemanlike, if I may except the frequency of his curses. He was dethroned for not conforming to the rules of his country's religion; having been detected eating pork and indulging in drink, his subjects rebelled in consequence, and obliged him to fly from Acheen to the place where he then resided. He seemed to feel more keenly the loss of his former seraglio than that of his kingdom. He was even at that time a very powerful monarch, and could bring a great army into the field. The natives about Tullesamoy were very favourable to him. He told us that his intention was to attack Acheen, the success of which enterprise he was most sanguine of.

His majesty was a fine looking man, about twenty-eight years of age, and of a fairer colour than any of his subjects. When he was prince of Acheen, he served as midshipman on board his majesty's ship, Caroline, commanded by Captain Sir C. Cole; in this capacity he remained three years, and was under the immediate eye of the captain. From the great attention then shown him he has formed an attachment for the English.

Tullesamoy is a small town situated on the extremity of a neck of land, and defended by two batteries of mud, containing eight pieces of cannon each; there are also some field pieces. It is like all other native buildings in India, entirely constructed of bamboo; the use of

mortar seems unknown to them. The principal export from this place is betle nut, which the whole island abounds in. The inhabitants being Malays, Battas, Lampoons, Regans and Acheens, are of a dark colour; their dress consists of a cloth tied round their middle; some wear turbans, and those of the lower order straw hats.

From the immense quantity of betle nut they chew, their teeth become black, which gives them a ferocious appearance. Some of the higher order have their two fore teeth covered with gold. Their manners are unlike the inhabitants of the Coromandel coasts; they possess none of their gentle qualities, and are of a very different disposition, being fond of war and pirating; this arises, however, more from laziness than courage, being unwilling to labour, they are obliged to supply the wants of nature by unlawful means. They are jealous of Europeans to a degree, and, I should think, without reason, for their women are a complete antidote to admiration. It was dangerous to look at a woman, and, I suppose, to speak to one would be instant death.

Sumatra is one of the western Sunda Islands; the equator almost divides it in equal parts, lying from 5° 33" north, to 5° 56" south; it is near nine hundred miles long, and its extreme breadth not more than two hundred. It is separated from Java by the Straits of Sunda, and from the Malay peninsula by the Straits of

Malacca. Bencoolin is the principal town; it belongs to the English, and is the only settlement the British have on the island.

29th—Weighed with a fine land wind, taking the ship in tow. Owing to light winds we did not reach Panang till the evening of the 3d September.

8th—Weighed and directed our course for Madras.

25th—Anchored in Madras roads. Owing to extreme illness, caused by liver complaint, I was obliged to go to the hospital. The Africaine sailed for Trincomalee, and shortly after her arrival there, I was informed she had been ordered for the Gulf of Persia. My health being improved, I embarked in the Countess of Lowden merchant brig, on the 19th October, and after a pleasant passage of five days, anchored in Trincomalee harbour, where, to my great satisfaction, I found the Africaine.

4th December—Weighed for the Coast of Persia.

16th—This day crossed the Gulf of Cambay, and in the evening made the Guzerat Coast.

26th—Entered the Gulf of Cutch or Indus; from this famous river India derives its name.

28th—Made the Coast of Persia. We ran down the coast, which afforded us an opportunity of seeing a great part of the country. Scarcely any thing appeared to our view but large mountains towering to the clouds, and totally divested of verdure. A few villages, inhabited by pirates, occasionally presented themselves.

Being close to one of them we observed a number of people employed in launching two large prows and some gallavats, no doubt with the intent of attacking us, supposing ours to be a merchant ship; however, they first took the precaution of ascertaining our force, by sending a trankey (or small boat) to us with a present of dried fish and fruit; they returned immediately to the shore, and instantly hauled their war vessels upon the beach. We afterwards understood that their presents were not offered with the intention of being friendly, as they observed the same precaution with every vessel, by which means they obtained admission, made observations on the strength of the ship, and if they thought success probable, immediately attacked her and put the crew to death; females are generally spared, owing to the respect which they entertain for them. It is a melancholy fact, that some few months before we arrived, those desperadoes took a vessel with a European lady on board; she was at that time living amongst them in the most abject slavery, without even a distant prospect of being released.

7th January, 1814—Saw the high land of Arabia, while close to the Persian coast. We now entered the gulf, and, in the evening, saw the once famous city of Ormus, which is now in ruins; formerly, when under the Portuguese dominion, this city was one of the richest in the east. A king of Persia, (Shak Abbas) with the assistance of the English, took it in

April, 1622. The pirates having made frequent descents on it, the trade, as well as the population, was diminished, and the government removed to Sunda Abbas, situated on the opposite coast about three leagues north of Ormus.

The Island of Ormus is about ten miles in circumference, and may be properly called a rock of salt. The dust of the country inland is very pungent to the taste, and is of a white colour. The town, from its situation, was formerly one of the greatest trading places in the east. The Sovereign was very rich, and of great influence. There is a great dearth of water, the only supply being from the rain caught in the cavities of the earth.

9th—At day light saw Kismis or Kisma, one of the largest islands in the gulf; it is inhabited by pirates. We continued our course between the main land and a long range of islands.

20th—Anchored in Bushier roads, where we remained only a few hours, in consequence of not being able, to get supplies which were much required, as our people became very sick owing to the change of climate. On leaving this we shaped our course for Carrack, a small island thirty miles N. W. of Bushier. Having procured three pilots, we made sail for the river Euphrates.

23rd—In the evening struck soundings on the bar of

Bassora, in three and a-half fathom. The water being so very shallow we thought that the pilots were ignorant of our situation, and brought too for the night. At daylight weighed, the pilots having assured us that there was sufficient water to pass over the bar, which appeared to be very extensive. We continued our course, occasionally deepening and shoaling the water. At about ten o'clock, we struck with some violence, in a quarter less three, but did not remain aground long; the flood tide being in our favour we still persevered, although there was but one inch to spare.

At six, p.m., we brought too at the mouth of the river Euphrates. A party was formed next morning to go to Bassora, and accordingly a number of officers proceeded in the barge and gig, well armed, as we understood that the river was infested with pirates. The only object worth notice is the ruins of the once famous city of Balsora. On landing at the town of Bassora, nothing could equal our disappointment, having expected to see a fine city. The town is surrounded by a wall built of mud, and has several large gateways; the streets are so narrow that three cannot walk abreast, and if two happen to meet on horseback, it is with great difficulty they pass each other. The houses are mean, low, and dirty.

The town is situated on a large canal near the Euphrates, and was built in 656. A great trade is

carried on with this place by many nations. The English have a consul here. As to religion, exclusive of Mahometanism, there are Nestorians, Jacobins, and Monks from Europe, &c.

On our way to the English factory, we were followed by a motley crowd of all nations, who were most insulting in their demeanour. Mr. Cochin, an English gentleman, received us very kindly, and manifested the greatest attention and hospitality. We only remained here two days, and on our return to the ship, weighed, having procured every needful refreshment.

CHAP. XVII.

Arrival at Bushier—Customs, Manners and Government of Persia—Marriage Ceremonies, &c., &c.

FEBRUARY 6th—Anchored in Bushier roads. The town appears somewhat noble and interesting at a distance, but, on landing, we were much disappointed. The houses are built of brick; but the mortar being bad, they are obliged to cover the front of the building with a plaster of mud, chopped straw, and manure; the appearance which this causes on a near approach, is mean. A person would suppose that the buildings are constructed of mud only.

We paid a visit to the governor (or shak); his was the only house we had an opportunity of exploring, with the exception of the British consul, which was easily distinguished by its neatness, and the flag of Britannia in front. He received us with all the dignity of his station, but, notwithstanding, showed every mark of respect, and paid us great attention. The entrance into his house was not what might be expected from a person of his station; the building is surrounded by a high wall, which intercepts the view We met several eunuchs in the court, who showed us into the khann or large room, which was covered with rich

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carpets. The great man of the house being informed of our arrival, made his appearance, attended by a train of officers. He entertained us with smoking, and some of the choicest wine and fruit of Persia. After paying this formal visit, we repaired to the English factory, where we took up our residence.

Our principal amusement while here was shooting and hunting; we found great abundance of partridge, snipe, mountain cock, hippoo, curlew, wild turkeys, bustard and pidgeon, with a variety of other species.

The baths seem to be the chief place of amusement for the native inhabitants, and are considered by them the greatest luxury; they are used by all classes of people. The bathing generally takes up three hours, and sometimes the whole day; on which occasion they indulge themselves in smoking, reading, sleeping and dying their beards, although they bathe often, which is done rather for a luxury than any act of cleanliness. They are a very dirty people, and very rarely change their garments; they think nothing of wearing a shirt two months; actual necessity alone obliges them to change their dress, as it becomes, by that time, too troublesome to wear.

The Persians are certainly the most polished people of the east, being kind, courteous, civil, and obliging to all strangers, and fond of inquiring after the manners of other nations, especially European. They very readily afford any information respecting their own country.

The rites of hospitality is observed by them with such strictness and good feeling, that a man thinks himself highly honoured by a stranger entering his house and partaking of the family fare.

We are told that the Persians, in ancient times, were the most learned of all the eastern nations; their poets were very renowned. A manuscript, now at Oxford, contains the lives of one hundred and thirty five of them. Fredruci was one of the most celebrated; he composed the History of Persia in a series of epic poems, which employed him for nearly thirty years. At the present day, Persia affords no poetic genius—learning is at a very low ebb.

The Persian mode of living is in general as follows: they always rise at day break, in order to perform their devotions; the first of which being denominated Numaz Soobh, or the Morning Prayer, is said before sun rise; a slight meal called nashta or breakfast, is then eaten, which consists of fruit, with a little bread, and cheese made of goats' milk; they afterwards drink a cup of very strong coffee, without either milk or sugar.

All classes smoke tobacco after breakfast. The second hour of prayer being called Numaz Zohur, or Mid-day Prayer, is always repeated when the sun declines from the meridian. Their dinner or chasht, which is soon after, consists of curds, bread, and fruit; animal food is not used at this meal. The third hour of prayer, being called Numaz Asur, is said about four

o'clock; the fourth, Numaz Shaw, after sun set; when this is finished, they eat their principal meal, called shami or supper, which generally consists of pilan, with rich spicy sauces; at supper they treat themselves to roast meat, and invariably wash their hands, face, and feet, before and after this, as well as every meal; they eat very quickly; the use of knives and forks is unknown to them. The sixth prayer, being styled Numaz Alhir, or Numaz Sheb, is repeated about an hour after supper—they then retire to bed.

The dress of the Persians is handsome; middle aged and old men shave their heads, while the young suffer a lock to grow on both sides. Persons of rank and quality wear magnificent turbans, many of which cost twenty and thirty pounds each. They also wear calico shirts, linen trowsers, waistcoats, a large loose garment, and boots or slippers. They always carry a krees, or dagger in a sash, which girds the waistcoat; the materials of their clothes are very expensive, consisting of the richest furs, and muslins richly embroidered with gold and silver. The dress of the women is not so expensive, being very simple. In justice to the females of Persia, I must say that they are handsome and have most interesting countenances; they generally wear a mask or large black veil, which is seldom taken off, even in the presence of their husbands, consequently I found it most difficult to obtain a sight of their faces, and this by mere accident. They rub their eye-brows

and eye-lids with black powder (called herma) which adds great beauty to their bright and sparkling eyes.

The women seldom appear in the company of the men; the former dine in one room and the latter in another; when even a man is desirous of dining with one of his wives, he gives her previous notice; accordingly she prepares the most delicate dishes, and receives her lord with the greatest respect. The women of the lower class remain frequently unnoticed in a corner of the room as servants, while their husbands are at dinner, for the purpose of attending them.

A traveller, or any man wishing to get a supernumerary wife, may purchase even a lady of rank for life, or any stated period. The cadi, for a small sum of money, is in the habit of procuring a number of young females, one of whom may be chosen by the applicant; he also goes security for her good conduct while in the service of her master.

Those females are generally faithful for the appointed time. Whenever the wife of a Persian is convicted of being unfaithful to her husband, she is torn to pieces. A circumstance of this kind occurred a few days before our arrival at Bassora.

An English gentleman, resident in that town, being a medical man, was very frequently solicited for advice. A beautiful Georgian female of about sixteen years of age, was among the number of his patients, and complained of a small but troublesome pimple; this led to

a suspicion. Accordingly she was taken by her relatives and torn limb from limb, her flesh was afterwards exposed to the public. In this instance the medical gentleman was near losing his life, although innocent.

The following curious marriage ceremonies are observed in Persia:—When a young man intends to marry, his parents look out among their kindred and acquaintances, for a suitable match, and having selected one, they then proceed to the house where the female, whom they intend to demand, resides; if the parents of the woman accede to the proposal, they immediately order sweetmeats to be laid before the guests, as a ratification of compliance; after this, the usual presents on the part of the bridegroom are made, which, if the person be in middling circumstances, generally consist of two suits of the best apparel; a ring, a looking glass, and a small sum of money; the last mentioned gift is a provision for the wife in case of divorce. A quantity of house linen, and various articles, such as mats, carpets, bedding, and kitchen furniture, are also provided. The wedding day having arrived, the bride is brought forth; a horse, provided by the bridegroom, is then presented for her use; being mounted, (the ladies in Persia ride in the same manner as the gentlemen,) a large looking glass is then held before her by one of the bride's maids, until she arrives at the house of her intended husband. This ceremony instances that she will never look into the glass again as a virgin.

Being now about to enter the married state, a procession moves forward in the following order; first, the music and dancing girls, after whom presents are borne upon men's shoulders; the relations and friends of the bridegroom shouting and making a great noise, follow next in order; the bride herself, accompanied by all her female friends and relatives, close the procession. The feasting, upon this occasion, lasts for ten days. A widow is obliged to wait four months after the death of her husband, she then can legally marry again; but the concubine of a deceased person, may provide for herself whenever she pleases.

At the naming of children in Persia, the following curious ceremony is observed:—when the child is three or four days old, the relations of the mother assemble, attended by music and dancing girls, hired for the occasion. After playing and dancing for some time, a mullah or priest is introduced, who, taking the child in his arms, demands of the mother what name she may wish the infant to be called. His enquiry having been answered, he repeats a form of prayer, and after a short time applies his mouth to the child's ear, exhorting it distinctly three times, (calling it by name) to parental obedience, veneration of the king and prophet, to abstainance even from those things which are lawful, and to the practice of whatever is good and virtuous; having repeated the Mahometan profession of faith, he returns the child to the mother, after which the company is

entertained with sweetmeats and other refreshments. The females always carry away a portion of the viands in their pockets, believing it to be the infallible means of becoming fruitful.

The ceremony of the sumut, or circumcision, is performed during the chehula, or forty days. Some, however, do not undergo the operation until the expiration of seven or eight years; but it is absolutely necessary it should take place before the age of fourteen, as after that time it is deemed unlawful. On this occasion the parents of the child invite their relations and friends to an entertainment. The operation is performed according to the Jewish ritual; with great men this ceremony is uncommonly splendid.

The funerals of the Persians are conducted much in the same manner as in Roman Catholic countries, with the exception, that after the relations of the deceased return home, they make a mixture of wheat, spices and honey, which they eat in memory of the deceased and send a part of it to their friends and acquaintances, that they may also pay honour to the deceased relative. We read in Homer of libations being frequently made to the memory of departed souls; therefore, this custom among the Persians may have been derived from a very ancient source.

The constitution or government of Persia appears extremely precarious; for it is altogether dependant upon the will of the kings, who are despotic and often

capricious. The king's will is a law, and all who represent his majesty have the same authority as their royal master. The cruelties practised by these tyrants are almost incredible. If a man of rank complain to the cadi or magistrate, of a servant, and wishes any particular punishment to be inflicted on him, it is instantly complied with. Servants often lose their eyes, ears or arms, for the most trifling cause. The kings are so unjust and tyrannical, that they have ordered their servants to bring the eyes of criminals on a plate to them. They have also been known to establish younger sons on the throne, by pulling out the eyes of their elder brother, as blindness is a disqualification for the royal succession.

Justice is administered in a very summary manner, the sentence, whatsoever it may be, being immediately put in execution. Theft is generally punished by the loss of an arm, nose, ear, eye, leg, or fingers. Robbery, by ripping up the belly of the criminal. Indeed the punishments inflicted in this country are so various and cruel, that humanity shudders at the bare recital, and the happy Englishman viewing them, should rejoice at being born in the arms of freedom, where property is not only sacred, but justice administered with mercy.

Ispahan is the capital of Persia; it is twelve miles in circumference, and contained nearly 700,000 inhabitants, but has been depopulated by war, which has also

destroyed a great part of its ancient magnificence; we are also told that Shirauz, which lies two hundred and thirty miles S. E. of Ispahan, is, without exception, the most beautiful city in Persia, the neighbourhood of which is said to be inexpressibly rich; the grounds are laid out in the most tasteful manner, the fruits of which are incomparable. The well known wine of Shirauz is reckoned the best in Persia. No country in the world produces the necessaries of life in greater abundance and perfection; the fields yield plenty of wheat, rice, and barley, which are generally reaped in the months of May and June. The sheep are of a very superior flavour, and celebrated for the fineness of their fleece; they have tails of an extraordinary size, which I have seen weigh upwards of twenty-five pounds; the oxen are small but very good. The most useful animals in this country are the camels, being amazingly fitted by Providence, for traversing dryed and parched deserts; they can throw up water from their stomach into their throats, by which means they are able to travel six or eight days without receiving a fresh supply of this necessary beverage; they usually carry eight hundred pounds weight on their backs, which is not taken off during the journey; they naturally kneel down to rest, and rise with renewed strength.

Persia is said to derive its name from Perseus, the son of Jupiter and Danae; other authors suppose that it is derived from Paras, which signifies a horseman,

the Persians being celebrated for their horsemanship.

19th—Weighed, and directed our course to Muskat. While crossing the gulf we were frequently visited by innumerable locusts; they occasionally passed over the ship like a dark cloud.

24th—We this day boarded an Arab man-of-war, called Fair Selam, mounting forty-six long twenty-four brass pounders, with a compliment of eight hundred men, commanded by a young prince, then going to join an expedition, formed against the pirates who were very formidable in many parts of the Gulf of Persia. Curiosity induced many of us to pay him a visit; his crew was an exact epitome of Asia, being a collection of Arabians, Persians, Armenians, Ethiopians, Jews, Greeks, Malays, and Indians, who created as much confusion of tongues as at the building of the tower of Babel.

The prince was accompanied by an immense number of war prows; the appearance of the whole fleet was most extraordinary, and the hideous yells of the several crews when rowing, increased the novelty of the scene.

CHAP. XVIII.

Arrival at Muskat—Synopsis of Arabia—Arrival at Bombay—a Visit to the Island of Elephanta.

2nd March—This evening anchored in Muskat* harbour, which forms a very grand natural prospect; the ruggedness of the rocks marking very characteristically the country of Arabia; the harbour is guarded by several forts in a very ruinous state; it is the principal sea port in Arabia Felix, and carries on a considerable trade as well with the Arabian and Persian Gulfs, as with Surat, Bombay, Coast of Malabar, and Coromandal. The town is badly built and seated in a barren valley; the whole country round this place is one continued solid rock, without a blade of grass or any kind of verdure. This barrenness the natives affirm, is amply recompensed by the fertility and beauty of the inland country; the reflection of the sun from the rocks causes intense and almost insupportable heat, which renders it extremely unhealthy. Many European merchants have in vain attempted to settle here, but seldom survived the second hot season; for a great part of the year, even the natives cannot appear in the streets. The reflection of the sun from

* See Frontispiece.

the rocks afflicts the people so severely with diseases of the eyes, that I scarcely met one out of ten who were not visibly suffering, and constantly annoyed by multitudes of flies which rested on their faces, owing to the diseases of their eyes.

Muskat is governed by an imaum, or independent prince, who presides over the province of Oman, of which Muscat is the capital. It was taken by the Portuguese in 1608, who retained it for a century and a half; it is walled round, with a deep ditch on the outside. Within the town is a good and well furnished bazaar, from which we were plentifully supplied with meat, vegetables, and fruit. The fish bazaar is also well supplied, which is the principal food of the natives; they feed their cattle with fish, mixed with dates, water, and a soft kind of earth, which is said to be extremely fattening.

About two miles from Muskat lies the town of Mattrah, where there is a cascade, the water of which is scalding hot; there are also several hot baths, formed by nature in this place. Great quantities of small fish, full of fins, and prettily spotted, are found in those baths; we endeavoured to catch some of them, but without success. The natives believe that death will follow those who succeed in catching them.

Arabia is said to be 1430 miles in length, and 1200 in breadth, it is divided into the three following parts: Arabia Petrea, Deserta, and Felix. Arabia Felix is by far the most considerable and fertile portion. The

Arabians are strictly attentive to their religious ceremonies, but fond of pirating and plundering; they traverse the desert, headed by a captain, in considerable troops, to the amount of 40,000 or upwards. In the year 1750, a troop of 50,000 Arabs attacked a caravan of merchants and pilgrims, escorted by a Turkish army, returning from Mecca, they killed 6000, and plundered the caravans. The Arabs are particularly fond of war. We read of Arabian women, of the tribe of Imair, who fought in the armies of Abubeker (father-in-law to Mahomet) and Oman; they were then considered the greatest warriors of the age.

The women in Arabia are accustomed to as much hardship as the men, therefore it is not at all to be wondered that they fought as well as them. Voltaire gives us an account of the determined boldness of one of these female warriors who, in revenge for the loss of her husband, who had been slain by her side, at the siege of Damascus, shot the governor of the city with an arrow. History affords many similar examples in the time of chivalry; these instances now appear incredible, especially since the invention of artillery, which has deprived the combatants of those resources which were peculiarly derived from personal bravery, skill, and ability. Nothing can equal the jealousy of the men of this country; the following is an illustration of the fact:—A sailing boat, with a number of passengers of both sexes, having got under

the lee of our ship, upset, owing to the sails gibing; every exertion was made on our part to save their lives. I might safely say one half the ship's company, officers and men, plunged into the sea, by which means thirty-two persons were rescued from a watery grave—fourteen perished. Among the number saved were eight females, who were instantly landed with their male companions by our boats; they were received on shore seemingly with thankfulness; but the unfortunate females were all put to death the same night, for no other cause than this, their faces had been seen by Christians. After this circumstance we were always obliged, when on shore, to have our hands on our sabres ready for an attack, and to be constantly glancing an eye over our shoulders lest a sudden attack should be made on us.

10th—Having completed our water, we again sailed to the gulf for the protection of trade, as the pirates were very formidable, and came up with the fleet, which we before met on our way to Muskat. We received information from the prince, the commander of the Selam, respecting the situation of the pirates, and soon left him behind, by our superior sailing; we next morning hove in sight of the enemy, who, on discerning our approach, burned their war vessels and fled into the interior. Our arrival in the gulf was not alone for the above mentioned service, but also for the purpose of giving Sir Gore Ousley, British Ambassador at the

court of Persia, a passage to India, and from thence to England; but the change of affairs on the continent of Europe offered an opportunity of his going home over land. On this communication being made to us, we took our departure from the gulf; the fine supplies of bullocks, sheep, and poultry, which we formerly received at Muskat, induced us to pay it another visit, where we remained only a few days. On leaving Muskat we directed our course for Bombay, and arrived there on the 5th April.

Bombay harbour is one of the finest and most secure in the East Indies; it is well defended by strong forts, kept in excellent order. The town is tolerably well built, but not magnificent; the houses in which the Europeans reside, are regular and handsome; all the other inhabitants, whether from habit or inclination, have their houses in a filthy state. They give up their whole time to business, forgetting all domestic occupations, and not enjoying even the common necessaries or comforts of life; a little rice, and sometimes curried fish, make the only entertainment after a day of toil.

There is no place in India where there is a greater variety of Asiatics than at Bombay. Persees, of which there are a great number, monopolise the greater part of the business; they are the most honest and upright class in India; a European never purchases an article unless his Persee Dubash is present, who, in fact, makes the bargain, taking care that his employer is

not cheated, and at the same time making the shopkeeper pay him about seven per cent., for having brought a customer.

The manner in which the Persees bury their dead is well worthy of notice. It is commonly believed by them that man is composed of all the elements, hence they conclude that after death, every particular element should receive its own again; consequently they have a building on the top of a hill, about three miles from Bombay, for receiving the dead bodies which are exposed there till the bones are completely picked by the birds. The spectacles which they afford are truly disgusting; the hill lies distant from any road. A person, who is led by curiosity to visit this strange repository of the dead, richly deserves any shock he may receive.

Mr. Grose says, that on going to visit one of those places, a Persee desired him in a friendly manner to desist, as persons seldom survive the gratification of such curiosity. There is a man appointed to inspect the dead, who carefully observes which of the eyes is picked out by the birds, and from thence infers the state of the departed soul; the right eye, when first picked, indicates happiness. This strange belief proves that the Persees, who certainly are the most enlightened Asiatics in other matters, equal in superstition the other tribes of India; they worship fire, and never extinguish it.

The island of Bombay is richly clothed by the hand of industry; every spot is cultivated, and nature has been very bountiful in giving the inhabitants abundant harvests. No place in India produces finer vegetables; the English kitchen garden is not more plentifully stocked than that of Bombay; every species of vegetable flourishes here, while in other parts of India (except Bengal) they wither and never arrive at perfection; the vegetation and fineness of soil are not confined to this island, but the neighbouring country is equally productive. During our stay here we made a party to visit the Elephanta, an island about seven miles from Bombay. On landing, we proceeded through some rice fields for about a quarter of a mile, when suddenly an elephant, erected on an eminence, and cut from a solid rock, appeared in view; it was so well executed that (if we had not received previous information on the subject) we would undoubtedly have taken it for an animal. The elephant is much fractured, which must have been done by mischievous persons at no small degree of trouble, the statue being of immense size. After viewing this wonderful piece of sculpture, we proceeded along a pleasant, shady path to the extent of a mile, when we arrived at the foot of a hill which we had to ascend by a zigzag path, till our progress was stopped by a cave, the mouth of which is surrounded by a high wall; we were met by an elderly man, who opened the door leading into it. On entering,

nothing could equal our astonishment, on beholding the wonderful groups of figures placed in the most extraordinary order and attitudes.

It has been impossible to discover at what time or for what purpose, this stupendous cavern was hewn from the native rock. Ingenuity has never been able to find out the meaning of the hieroglyphic figures sculptured on the walls. As to the purpose for which the cavern was hewn, some imagine that it was made to afford a retreat from the foe, others that it was a sanctuary of a religion, no longer in existence, while others again are found, who unreasonably suppose that it was the burial place of the mighty dead. The construction of this cavern has been imputed to Semiramis and Alexander, as well as to the genii. The labour consumed in making it must have been as great as that bestowed on the pyramids of Egypt; it is divided into apartments of different sizes, supported by many pillars, and constructed with great precision; the walls are covered by immense figures of males and females, pourtrayed in many and extraordinary gestures; on the ceiling is a sky, in which genii and grotesque forms of a terrific appearance are hewn. All that the imagination could devise seems to have been imprinted on the rock; the cornice contains the representation of horses, elephants, and animals of various kinds, drawn most admirably; the cavern is about one hundred and twenty-five feet long, and one hundred

and twenty broad; the entrance is from the north. The ponderous rocks are supported by four rows of pillars, beautifully proportioned, and their architecture is very different from that of the rock. Every column stands upon a square pedestal, and is beautifully fluted; a stone ridge, similar to a beam, is placed along the tops of those columns, while the sides of the cavern are lined with the gigantic statues, already mentioned, in number about fifty. They are, I think, about eleven feet high, well executed, and although as round and symmetrical as life, yet are not detached from the parent rock; they are represented variously, some displaying most ferocious and malignant countenances, others wearing helmets of an extraordinary shape, and many crowns, adorned with gold; one, in particular, excelled the others, by the peculiarity of its appearance, the face of which, marked by frowns, and almost covered by immense whiskers, while one of the hands grasped a large snake of about a foot in circumference, was sufficient to strike the beholder with terror; the middle finger of this monster was about three feet long. Two majestic figures, supposed to be the priests of Bramha, are adorned with the dress of that god. In the midst of a group stands an Amazon, having no right breast, while the left one is very large; she is represented with four arms, the right fore one hangs down, and the hand of the right arm grasps a snake; with one of her left hands she holds a shield. There

is also another of peculiar and ferocious features, the limbs are covered in a gigantic style; the mouth wide open, and the countenance savage. This statue has eight ponderous arms, six of which are perfect; a canopy is extended over its head, and contains figures sculptured in the attitude of adoration; one of the right hands grasps a naked sword, while another holds an affrighted babe, whose head hangs downward, and whom the cruel tyrant is about to destroy. Some have thought that this statue represents the judgment of Solomon, recorded in the first book of Kings, chap. iii. One of the left hands holds an instrument used in religious ceremonies, and another, a basin to catch the blood of the victim; a chain of sculls encircles the arms. In truth the whole of the statue is most frightful; it is thought to be the destroying Indian power. A dark recess, unadorned by any external ornament, (except an altar in the centre, and colossus figures guarding the four doors) is situated in the end of this cavern. We fired a shot to try the effect it might have in this extraordinary cave; and as the sound rolled from arch to arch, for a considerable time, we were astounded, imagining for the moment, that the cavern would give way, and crush us beneath its ruins. The old man who had the care of the place, was much annoyed at the firing of the shot. It is said that snakes inhabit the retired recesses. After the sound of the report had died away, we heard a noise resembling the hissing of

those reptiles. We took our departure from the island, much pleased with the excursion.

Bombay affords the finest docks in India, which are spacious enough for the largest ships in the navy. Several seventy-four gun ships have been built by a person named Jumpsy Jee. This man served his time in Portsmouth dock yard, and became, by his industry, one of the richest men in Bombay; he is very benevolent to the poor, and does not confine his charities to a narrow compass, as he subscribes to several institutions in England; he is much respected in India.

Murders are very common in Bombay, although the guilty are usually punished most severely. The following strange punishment took place while we were here: the criminal was a native, and had, two days before his trial, murdered his master, named Ameir Sahir. On the day of punishment, an elephant was brought forth with only the driver on its back, surrounded by natives with bamboos in their hands; the criminal was placed three yards behind the elephant, on the ground, his legs being tied by three ropes, which were fastened to a ring on the right hind leg of the animal; at every step the elephant took, the criminal was jirked forward, consequently, eight or ten steps must have dislocated his limbs. When the elephant had proceeded five hundred yards, the criminal, though covered with wounds and mud, showed symptoms of life, and seemed to be in excruciating pain; the skin from his back hung loose, in

pieces, even far behind his head; the slow motion of the animal appeared to give him time to breathe. After about an hour, he was taken outside the town, where the elephant, instructed for the occasion, having been backed, crushed with his foot the criminal's head.

A most shocking attempt at murder was made a few days after the above circumstance. A young man, a native, made love to a girl of his own caste, who possessed a considerable sum of money and jewels. The man being a sailor, commanded a small coasting dow; he persuaded the woman to go to Surat, where he promised they should be married immediately. He had not got out of the harbour, before he robbed her of all her money and valuables, gave her a blow on the head, and threw her over board. On his return to Bombay he was taken into custody, and the girl's property was found in his possession. When he was brought to trial, nothing could equal his astonishment on finding that the only evidence against him was the poor girl, whose life he had attempted. She was saved by a fisherman, after having been twelve hours in the water. The man acknowledged his guilt, and was immediately gibbetted on a small island, four miles from Bombay.

11th May.—The ship being completely equipped for sea, we weighed early this morning for the coast of Coromandel.

CHAP. XIX.

Arrival at Pondicherry—China and Sooloo Seas—Traffic with the Natives of Tulian—Their Ignorance of the Value of Coin.

29th—ANCHORED in Pondicherry Roads. No eastern settlement has undergone greater revolutions, as to government, than Pondicherry. It was first colonized by the French in 1674, and since that period, was taken by the English, but restored by the treaties of peace. It was a fine city, and in a most flourishing state, but the ravages of war have considerably reduced it; there yet remains some appearance of grandeur. It is considered the most regular town in India; the streets are broad and the houses built with great taste—many of them have handsome gardens in front; a uniform range of trees extends from one end of the street to the other.

The French inhabitants are very numerous, but do not enjoy the privilege of trading to any extent; this has reduced them to great want, being obliged to live on whatever they may have saved while under their own government. This place is extremely hot, nevertheless the climate is wholesome; rain is very unfrequent, the latter end of October being the only moist season. The country is well cultivated and produces an abundance of rice; animal and vegetable food is very cheap, and

chiefly consists of beef, mutton, fowl and fish. The want of a port is greatly felt; scarcely a safe anchorage can be obtained; the landing is very difficult, and more dangerous than at Madras. The native Indians, called Gentoos, are principally weavers; the daily hire is small, being only three pence, by which the tradesman is enabled to support, perhaps, a large family, their chief diet being rice and fish.

3rd June—Sailed for Trincomalee. Ten days after our arrival, we received the pleasing intelligence that the American frigate, Constitution, had arrived in the Indian seas. We immediately slipt our cables, and directed our course for Dondra Head, the southernmost part of the Island of Ceylon. Fearing that the Constitution would intercept the progress of a valuable fleet, expected from England, our course was directed with all the eager expectation of falling in with the enemy. After being a few days at sea, we discovered the expected fleet of Indiamen, conveyed them within a few miles of Madras, and again returned to our cruizing ground, where we remained for a considerable time, without meeting any success.

26th July. Spoke his majesty's ship, Leda, and received the intelligence of peace between the contending powers of Europe. This was pleasing news, because it afforded the hope of a speedy return to old England; yet it was not unattended with grief to many on board, the expectation of fighting nobly in the cause

of our country being thus disappointed. The prospect of soon seeing the chalky cliffs, was again snatched from our view, having received despatches for the admiral then at Batavia. We now parted company with the Leda and steered for Panang; owing to a thick fog, we got within a mile of the town, before its inhabitants discovered the Africaine displaying the colours of four nations; the white flag, with the fleur-de-lise at the main, the Spanish at the foretop, the Dutch at the mizen, and the English at the mizen peak. We fired a royal salute, and the news of peace being communicated to the governor, it was immediately returned by the garrison.

18th August—His majesty's ship, Minden, arrived, bearing the flag of Sir Samuel Hood; he immediately ordered us to prepare for six months' cruise, in quest of the Essex, an American frigate, which was said to be among the spice islands.

20th—This evening weighed. Nothing worth observation took place during our passage through the Straits of Malacca and Singapoura.

31st—Entered the China Seas, and shaped our course for the Island of Domar, which we passed during the night.

2nd September—This evening saw the Natunas Islands, situated to the N.W. of Borneo; we remained in sight of them five days, owing to calms, when, to our inexpressible joy, a breeze sprung up from the west-

ward. After leaving the Natunas, we shaped our course to the eastward; this navigation is the most dangerous in the China seas, being full of rocks and shoals; we kept close to the island of Borneo, occasionally altering our course to avoid danger.

8th—The sun being vertical, we did not get an observation, and therefore could not ascertain the true latitude.

9th—We were equally unfortunate, the sun being obscured by the clouds. This caused considerable uneasiness, as we could not know the exact position of the ship; we supposed ourselves by the dead reckoning to the northward of shoals, which we were in great apprehension of. When night came on our alarm was greater, and we remained in this state till daylight opened to our view a most miraculous escape from shipwreck. We found that the ship had passed between two shoals which were nearly three times her length.

13th. This day saw the land of St. Peter's Mount, in Borneo; from its great height, together with its stately and majestic form, it seemed to have a pre-eminence amongst the surrounding hills; when the sun rose we lost sight of its apex, which was veiled in the clouds. On leaving Borneo, we saw the island of Balambangan, and shortly after the high peak on the island of Bangey. On a near approach to the latter place, we discovered several small islands to which no names are given. Balambangan is low and woody.

In 1773, the East India Company formed a settlement here; but the following year vacated it. I have not been able to ascertain why their project was so soon given up; but suppose that the baneful effects of the climate compelled them to desist pursuing a plan which might cause inevitable destruction to European settlers. We passed close to this island, and did not see the vestige of a house, or the smallest appearance of cultivation. During the day, we saw the island of Balabec; it is long and woody. In the evening, after passing innumerable rocks and shoals, we got through the straits of Balabec, and entered the Sooloo Sea; here we had to encounter many dangers, and found it necessary to keep the hand-lead continually going, as the water shoaled from fifteen to five fathoms in less than a minute. Great coral rocks were discernible under the ship's bottom, which convinced us that this navigation would be attended with great danger, if it blew hard.

15th.—Passed close to the island of Cagayan Sooloo; on the west side of it is a nice looking village, situated in a delightful valley, and surrounded by a great variety of trees. From the spacious and well cultivated fields, I should suppose the population to be considerable, else the inhabitants are very industrious, which is not usual among Malays. There are several very small islands adjacent to this, covered with wood. After leaving this we steered for Panguteran, and suffered considerably, when crossing the Sooloo Sea, from the

intense heat of the sun. Owing to a continuation of light airs, the atmosphere was so charged with heat, that many became debilitated and unable to work. Dysentery and liver complaints were the consequence, which carried off a great many, even of our strongest men.

22nd. Being close in with the island of Panguteran, we observed boats pulling towards us, and were now solaced with the hope of obtaining refreshments for the sick; but to our dismay, they returned to the shore. With a view of inducing the natives to communicate with us, we sailed within pistol shot of a small village, and endeavoured to anchor, but could not get soundings in sixty fathoms. We now stood over for the island of Oobeean, but were equally unsuccessful. The intricacy of the navigation, occasioned by the numerous islands, coral reefs, and shoals, every where interspersed, required great caution.

24th. We were all this day running down the north side of the island of Sooloo, and at ten, p.m. came to anchor in Tulian Bay, formed by an island of the same name, on the north side, and Sooloo on the south; the lights on both islands guided us in safety to the anchorage. Next morning we were much astonished at finding ourselves close to the shore, the distance from side to side not being more than a quarter of a mile. Day had scarcely made its appearance, when two large war prows, with sixty men in each, armed

with spears and creeses, pulled round the ship several times, but would not come along side, on discovering us to be a man of war. They usually capture unarmed vessels, and put the crew to death. On their return to shore we were visited by hundreds of small canoes, crowded with armed natives; some lay at a distance to view the ship, at which they appeared to be wonderfully surprised, others came along-side with poultry and fruit, but remained some hours without disposing of any articles; Spanish dollars, gold pagodas, rupees, and English coin, were offered for their commodities, all of which they looked at with the greatest indifference, appearing ignorant of their value. A sailor, enraged by the disappointment of not getting a fresh blow out for the proffered money, tore a button from his jacket, and offered it to one of the natives, for which he got a couple of fowl. Jack soon made this known to his ship-mates, and the canoes were immediately cleared of their cargoes. Old knives, razors, and buttons were polished up in high style; but owing to the liberality of our people, the natives raised the price of every article, as will appear from the following statement, viz:—

FORENOON PRICE.			AFTERNOON PRICE.		
2 Fowl, . .	One Button.		1 Fowl . .	One Button.	
6 Cocoa nuts, .	do.	do.	2 Cocoa nuts .	do.	do.
100 Guavas, .	do.	do.	40 Guavas, .	do.	do.
50 Oranges, .	do.	do.	30 Oranges, .	do.	do.
100 Lemons, .	do.	do.	60 Lemons .	do.	do.

A quarter of beef,..... one old knife, a razor or kerchief.
A turtle 300lbs. ..... do. do. do.

Birds of paradise and many curious articles of their own manufacture were purchased at an equally moderate rate, viz., baskets, fishing tackle, shields, bows, and arrows. The scene exhibited was truly amusing; hundreds of canoes crowded with a motley band, and making a most hideous noise, surrounded the ship. All were eager to dispose of their cargoes; several canoes were cleared of every article, for six old buttons. We may suppose, from the circumstance of their being unacquainted with money, that they cannot have much communication with the commercial world. Notwithstanding, they assert that a trade is carried on by them with the neighbouring islands. This I doubt very much, their canoes not being calculated for trading.

The inhabitants of Sooloo are Malays; yet they cannot speak the language correctly, having a peculiar one of their own; this may be sufficient to prove that they carry on no commercial intercourse with other nations. The inhabitants of adjacent islands may come here to traffic for sago, Indian corn, betle nut, and pearls. The island is, to all appearance, very fertile, and, without exception, one of the most beautiful I ever saw. There is no impenetrable jungle; the trees are tastefully interspersed, and inclosures of green fields, of an extent that would astonish many of the inhabitants of India, are every where to be seen; this was to us a most remarkable and pleasing sight. The sea

shore is well lined with cocoa nut and betle trees, planted no doubt by the hand of man. Agriculture is every where to be seen, which is, as I before observed, a remarkable thing among the Malays; but when we consider that the inhabitants of this island are 70,000, we cannot be surprised that husbandry should be so very extensive. It is only thirty miles long and eleven broad. It is governed by a king, who resides at the village of Soolooboo; we had no intercourse with him, as he put to death, in 1799, an English resident and his suite. From that to the present time (according to their own account) no communication has been carried on with the English; hence it was necessary for us to act with caution. The inhabitants are so treacherous that it is dangerous to allow one of them to walk behind a European, yet they appear most harmless, and profess great friendship. The last ship that visited this place lost many of her men, when watering. One of our officers, on landing, happened to laugh at an old man; the latter having perceived it, instantly drew his kreese, and attempted to revenge an apparent insult. The officer having a gun in his hand, instantly cocked it and put himself in a posture of defence, which intimidated the old man, who, accompanied by many of the natives, retired. Whenever we approached any of them, whether on shore or on board, they instantly grasped the hilt of their kreese, which carries with it cowardice as well as treachery. The purpose of our

coming here was to get a supply of water and refreshment; accordingly two of our boats being employed the whole day in looking for fresh water; one of them happened to go up a river some distance from the ship, when a native, who appeared much interested about them, very humanely despatched a canoe after the boat to advise our people by no means to venture far, armed men being stationed in ambuscade on the banks in considerable numbers for the purpose of cutting off the crew. This friendly advice was taken, and the boats returned without watering.

The natives are very dexterous in the use of the spear, kreese, bows, and arrows, and a kind of cimiter. They have no idea of the use or nature of gun-powder, and were much astonished at its effect. A cannon being fired, struck those who were about the ship with a panic, consequently they rowed with the utmost energy to the shore. It was laughable to see them pulling away from the smoke, as from an enemy, while horror was pictured in their countenances; after this they ceased to communicate with us. We had an opportunity of seeing many of their villages, all of which are built on piles about eight feet from the ground, and so close to the beach, that at high water the sea washes under them; they are built of bamboo, and covered with the branches of the cocoa nut tree. Their huts are furnished in a very simple manner; a couple of cane mats on which they sleep, and two or

three earthen pots, constitute the whole of their furniture.

Not being able to procure water here, and finding the natives would not hold any communication with us, we took our departure.

27th—Entered the Sooloo Archipelago; those islands, being very little known, we could not venture into any of their harbours; many of them had not the least appearance of habitation. Light baffling airs were our constant visitants, and being reduced to a very small stock of water, we directed our course for the village of Amsterdam, situated on the N. E. arm of the Celebes island, which we discovered on the 1st of October; but owing to a strong current, could not fetch it. Æolus at length enabled us to steer for Ternate.

CHAP. XX.

Arrival at and Description of Ternate and Gomontella—A Visit from Prince Papoos—An Account of a Whale.

Oct. 3rd—Saw the high land of Gillola, and shortly after, the island of Ternate; the breeze continuing favourable, we were fortunate enough to get to an anchor in the harbour. The island lies in 126 east longitude and 1° 2'' north latitude; it is the most northernmost of the Moluccas, and is twenty-five miles in circumference.

In 1638, the Dutch formed an alliance with the sultan, and by paying him a tribute, were allowed to garrison it.

In 1811, it was taken from them by the English, and is now under the government of the Hon. East India Company, who pay the sultan 60,000 dollars, annually, for destroying the nutmeg trees. Ternate is one of the most productive of the Moluccas. Fruit and vegetables, of almost all species, are found here in the greatest plenty. It is, without exception, the most healthful of the eastern islands, although very close to the equator.

The aspect of this island is very inviting; it is very high, and can be seen at the distance of about twenty

leagues. On a near approach, it exhibits a craggy soil, appearing at intervals among the finely ornamented, but not thickly covered trees. The cocoa nut regularly lines the beach, interspersed with several smaller trees of a beautiful green foliage; amongst these the houses occasionally open to the view, the capacious size and regularity of which bespeak the comfort of the possessor. On visiting them, we were much pleased with their cleanliness. The natives are Malays, and are brave soldiers, being accustomed to war from their infancy.

10th—Having procured every thing necessary, we took our departure, and stood to the eastward.

11th—Boarded a South Sea whaler, bound to Ternate for refreshments; the weather being fine, her boats afforded us some amusement in catching a whale. The whale is the largest animal of the watery element, and measures from one hundred to one hundred and thirty feet in length; the head measures a third part of the length of the whole body, on which it has two fins, from about seven to ten feet long; with those it rows along very quickly; the tail is eight or nine yards broad, and being turned up at both ends in a curve, is enabled to dash the strongest boat to pieces. It is remarkable that the whale spouts out the water through its nostrils, with a noise which can be heard at the distance of about two or three miles; the eyes are placed between its nostrils and fins, and have eye lids

that drop over them; it has no flaps to its ears, nor any teeth, but contains in the upper jaw, which is about six or seven yards long, their whiskers, as they are commonly called, of which the whalebone is made; the tongue is of prodigious size. The whale brings forth its young, like a quadruped, fully formed, and when pursued, it wraps it up in its fins. The throat of this fish is about four inches broad; it lives chiefly on white slime, of a substance similar to starch, which is found in every part of the Southern Ocean. The manner of catching whale is as follows:—When it is seen or heard, a long boat with six men makes to it; the whale, observing the pursuers, dives, but rises again to breathe. The harpooner strikes it usually near the fin; the fish no sooner feels the smart, than it darts down into the deep with the harpoon, to which a line, of about two hundred yards long, is fastened, which runs with such rapidity, that when it entangles, it must either snap short or upset the boat; hence a man is always appointed to attend the line on the boat's edge, lest it should take fire, owing to the friction. If the fish is not mortally wounded, it generally flounces about for an hour, in which case, fresh line is added from other boats. If the whale comes up again alive, they strike it with other harpoons, and then kill it with lances; when dead, it rises to the surface of the water, with its belly upwards, and is then towed to the ship's side. The crew first cut out from the jaws the whale-

bone, and next the blubber from the tongue; afterwards they proceed to strip the whole body of its fat, beginning at the head and tail at once, and ending in the middle. The whole crew get on the whale for this purpose, and usually strip it in a few hours; the loss of its fat causes the fish to lose its buoyant faculty, and when turned adrift, goes down with a general and joyful huzza of the entire crew; in a few days it bursts, rises again, and affords a profuse banquet for fishes and birds. The flesh of this animal is excellent; I have dined with a large party of the officers and civilians in Bermuda, when every one present conceived that they had eaten sumptuously of fish, veal, and beef, when, in reality, they had only partaken of whale.

16th—This morning anchored in Kema harbour, situated on the N.E. arm of the Celebes; the sultan or raga came on board immediately; he was accompanied by a numerous suite of at least forty; he presented the captain with a gift of fruit, fowl, and sheep, as a token of the very high respect he had for the English. After a great many professions of friendship he returned to the shore, much pleased; we only remained here a few hours.

24th—Anchored in Gonontella River, and were soon visited by the natives, who crowded on board, seeming much surprised at the magnitude of our ship. We were honoured by a visit from the Prince Papooa, attended by a guard of honour and a band of music;

the prince was attired in the complete uniform of an English colonel, with the exception of his head-dress, which was a crown very richly decorated with precious stones; he dined with us, and was very affable. He asked many questions respecting the English government and the state of Europe. On being told of the success of the British and allied armies, he seemed greatly rejoiced, expressing a hope that many nations would now visit him, by which intercourse a mutual benefit would arise; his conversation was interesting and rational, which is not very usual among Malays. After drinking an immoderate quantity of Madeira and brandy, he invited us on shore: we readily accepted his invitation, and accompanied him in a canoe, covered with an awning, highly ornamented with gold and silk. On landing we were received by a crowd of some thousands, who followed us to the palace; their manners appeared to be inviting, courteous, and polite; yet, notwithstanding their circumspection of behaviour, it did not give us the more favourable opinion of them. Immediately on entering the palace the Prince Papooa disappeared, but in a few minutes returned in his native dress, which so altered his appearance, that it was some time before we recognized him, as he wore no ornament to distinguish him from his meanest subject. After entertaining us with a drink of cocoa-nut milk, which was the best cheer his habitation afforded, he accompanied us to the court

house, where the lesser princes and heads of villages were assembled for the purpose of consulting as to the propriety of furnishing us with the necessary refreshments, and also with the view of putting the natives on their guard, fearing that it was our secret intention to attack them. On our return to the palace we were informed that orders were given to supply us with every thing requisite.

The palace, or rather hut, lies about two miles up a narrow river, and is built of bamboo, covered with the leaves of the palmyra tree; a high mud wall, surrounded by a morass, and two pieces of cannon placed at the entrance, distinguish it from the common habitations.

Upwards of forty females taken in war are confined within this palace of mud, daughters of the interior Indian princes. They all appeared very young and interesting, and made legitimate claims to some share of eastern beauty; as they never had seen white men before, we were induced to ask them if they did not think us handsome; they answered in the negative. One of them about the age of twelve, was purchased by an officer for thirty dollars, and when told that she should go with him she fainted; a boy eight years old was also purchased by another officer for an old match-lock. They were both restored to freedom; the girl was landed at Banda, and the boy proved a faithful servant to his master.

Gonontella lies on the south side of the N.E. arm of the Celebes. It is the most noted place on the island for gold in bars* and dust; it produces cotton, rice, sago, and pepper. Sago and rice are the only commodities which they export to other islands. This may be owing to the construction of their vessels, the largest prow not being more than forty feet long and two wide; they are planked above the gunwhale about eighteen inches in midships; through the planking there is a frame extending across, which projects on one side about four feet, and the other ten or twelve. At the end of this they fix a piece of wood in the form of a prow, and about twenty or thirty feet long, which goes in the water, serves as an outrigger, and thus prevents the vessel from upsetting; the frame consists of four or five beams of Bamboo, which project horizontally; to the end of the frame are lashed six carved pieces of wood, let into the float with very neat mortices; they are of sufficient length and strength to prevent it taking the water; at the outer end of the frame, a stage or deck is laid of split bamboo, on which a cabin, covered with mats large enough to entertain three or four persons, is erected. The mast

* One of the officers purchased two gold bars, value about £10 each; his shipmates having jocularly observed to him that the interior was iron, he, induced by curiosity, cut it, when, to his amazement, he discovered that he had been seriously imposed upon.

is stepped about one third from the bow; it is supported by small bamboo shrouds, made fast to the outer end of the outrigger; the sail formed of mats, is triangular; it has a yard to the fore part, and a boon to the foot; both yard and boon are nearly the same length; they never tack, but always keep the outrigger to windward; when the course is altered they dip the sail and take the tack to the outward end of the prow; they haul to the wind without putting round and steer with two paddles.

The island of Celebes is about 570 miles from north to south; it is divided into various portions by large bays, so that the breadth is not more than fifty miles. The inhabitants of the west coast call it Macassar, and on the east Celebes; but in general the atter name is given to the whole island. The heat is great but moderated by occasional falls of rain, and the climate very unwholesome, owing to the alternate rain and heat, and would be more so were it not for the north winds which are frequent; parts of the island are covered with trees, useful for dying; bamboos large enough for boats also flourish here in a continual spring, the trees are evergreen, and luxuriant flowers grow without cultivation.

The coast is for the most part lofty; and, in the interior, mountain rises above mountain; the luxuriance of wood and herbage is almost inconceivable; there are many poisonous trees and plants; the notorious

upas flourishes on several parts of this island; the mountains, which are difficult of access, produce large mines of gold, tin, and copper. The Dutch had several settlements here which were all taken possession of by the English in 1811. The inhabitants of this island on the sea coast are a mixture of several nations, and profess the Mahometan religion; they are said to be the best Asiatic soldiers, many of whom enter into the service of the Honourable East India Company; they are short, thick, set, and very muscular; their features are good, their colour is of reddish yellow; they chew a great quantity of betle nut, pawn leaf, and chanum, which blackens the teeth, reddens the lips, and gives them a ferocious appearance. The higher order smoke an immoderate quantity of opium, which is their sole employment.

CHAP. XXI.

Arrival at the Spice Islands—The Boa Serpent—Pellew Islands—The Ship nearly lost in the Straits of St. Bernadino—Miraculous Escape.

28th—THIS morning made sail from the river, and directed our course to the Xula Islands, which we made the following day, and coasted close along them; many prows came near us, having eight or ten men in each; but we could not prevail on them to come on board. These islands are beautifully formed; they are covered with wood, and, I should judge, well watered from the numerous vallies. On leaving them, another group opened to our view, Oubi, Mixao, Tanoeu, Ceram, Lisabala, Booroo, and many others of little note. Booroo produces the greatest variety of trees in the world, little known in Europe, of which the finest furniture is made; the following are some of their names:—Kyoo Lingoo, Kyoo Boocoo, Kyoo Bonga, Kyoo Tecar, Kyoo Aloose Kyoo Bessy, Kyoo Gaffasa. The most admired is the Kyoo Boocoo. It is the excressence of the Kyoo Lingoo, and has the appearance of marble; ebony, satin, and sandal wood grow here in the greatest perfection.

The Kyoo Poote oil, commonly called Macassar, is produced here; it is extracted from the leaf of the

Kyoo Poote tree. This is the only part of the world where it is to be had, and not more than four hundred bottles annually can be produced; it is the most infallible cure for sprains and rheumatism. The notorious species of wild boar called babbee roussa is found here in great numbers, which is said to be a native of this island only.

The largest sized boa snake also inhabits this place, which has the sovereign sway, being a most destructive creature. I have seen some of them, found here, measure sixty feet in length; the body is very thick, of a dusky white colour, and on its back are interspersed irregular spots; the tail is of a darker colour; the sides are beautifully variegated; the head is covered with small scales, and the tongue fleshy and very little forked. This animal is also found in Africa, where the natives use its skin for clothing; the flesh is considered by them delicious food; it frequents caves and thick forests, where it conceals itself and suddenly darts out upon travellers and wild beasts. A tree being selected for a watching place, it supports itself by twisting the tail about the trunk or branch, and attacks any animal that comes within its reach. When it lays hold of an animal, especially any of the larger kind, it twists itself several times round the body, and by the vast force of its circular muscles, bruizes and breaks all its bones; after the bones are broken it licks the skin of the dead animal all over, besmearing it with a glu-

tinous kind of saliva. This operation is intended to facilitate deglutition, and is a preparation for swallowing the whole prey. If it be a stag or any horned animal it begins to swallow the feet first, then gradually the body, and last of all the head. After the serpent has swallowed a stag or buffaloe it is unable to move for some days; the hunters always take this opportunity of destroying it. One of them, in the reign of Claudius, was found with a child whole in its belly.

On leaving Booroo we entered the Banda Sea with a fine breeze from the N.W.

7th November—This morning saw the island of Amboyna, and at six P.M. came to anchor within a few yards of the town. Amboyna is the principal of the Spice Islands, lying S.S.W. of Ceram, distance five leagues in latitude 4° south longitude 127° east; the Portuguese were the first who settled here, having discovered it and the adjacent islands in 1511; they were taken from them by the Dutch in 1607, and, according to a treaty in 1619, the English came in for one third of the produce. The government which the Dutch established here was supreme over all the Moluccas, and next in rank to that of Batavia. In the year 1622, the Dutch having pretended that a plot was formed against their lives and liberties by the English, cruelly massacred our countrymen.

In 1811, Amboyna was taken by the English, and

has since remained under the government of the Hon. East India Company, who engross the whole of the spice trade. They pay large sums to the sultans of the neighbouring islands to destroy their spices, and to prevent any traffic being carried on by others. The East India Company know what quantity is equal to the demand, therefore they cause all to be destroyed that exceed it.

Notwithstanding, every exertion is used to destroy the propagation of the spice in the adjacent islands; yet it is said the birds, particularly the pidgeons, carry the seed, by which means the difficulty arises in the destruction of this valuable commodity in the islands forbidden to cultivate them. I can positively assert that some of the feathered tribe here have, when cooked, as strong a flavour of spices as if they were stewed in them; and it is remarkable that their bones are perfectly black, while the flesh is white.

Amboyna is only famous for cloves. It produces very few nutmegs. The natives cultivate the spices under the inspection of numerous rangers, and when collected they are not allowed to sell it to any but to the India Company, who have the following fixed prices: mace, eleven pence, cloves, six pence, and nutmegs, four pence per pound.

A large ship of 1400 tons burden sails annually from Amboyna for England, having previously collected the nutmegs at Banda—we remained here but two days.

11th—Anchored in Banda harbour, and within a quarter of a mile of a burning mountain called Goonong Appy, which is constantly burning; we were completely landlocked by the islands of Banda Neira, and Goonong Appy; the prospect on entering this harbour is most splendid; the numerous groves of nutmeg trees, together with the well built and handsome houses interspersed, have a most pleasing effect; this island is very unhealthy; few Europeans can stand the baneful effects of the climate longer than a year; and as our crew were reducing in numbers; we only remained three days; after taking our departure, we directed our course to the southward, in hopes of getting some information of the American frigate, Essex, among the islands on the coast of New Holland.

18th—This evening passed close to a burning island; it well deserves that name as it is always in a blaze; it is remarkably high, not more than three miles in circumference, and of a pyramidical form; its sides, to the water's edge, are perfectly white, from the quantity of lava it throws forth.

19th—Saw the Luceparas islands; they are low and uninhabited.

20th—This evening discerned many more islands, called the Wetter, Cambey, Baba Roma, Dama and Ombey; we remained drifting among them several days, owing to strong currents and light airs.

24th—Came to anchor on the north side of Timor,

in Deloo Roads. The island lies in latitude 11°, south longitude 125° east; its principal produce is sandal wood, honey, and bees' wax. The natives are a mixture of nations; those from New Holland and New Guinea appear to be very numerous, and are most inoffensive; their dress and manners differ from the Malay; a bandage made from the inner rind of a tree constitutes the dress; the only mark of distinction among the settlers from New Holland and Guinea, is the plantain leaf which they wear in their ears. I observed that the oldest men had very large leaves, while the younger had smaller ones. On visiting their huts the inmates took the leaves out of their ears, and held them up; this I afterwards understood was a mark of respect to visitors, and a token of amity.

The females are very unprepossessing in their appearance, owing to the quantity of dark red masticated filth, composed of betle leaf and herbs, which projects at least two inches from their mouths; this, together with the relaxed appearance of their bosoms is most disgusting; those of New Holland and New Guinea, residing here, differ not in the least in colour.

The filth with which the skin of both sexes is covered prevents its true colour from appearing; the men adorn their bodies with scars, so that they make a very hideous figure; some of them have their skin raised two inches from the flesh, it also appears to be filled with wind; all these are considered marks of

honor. Men and women perforate the cartilage of the nose, and thrust a large bone through it; their hair is generally so much clotted with red gum, that it resembles a mat. They paint their bodies with various colours, and ornament themselves with beads and shells. Most of the men want one of their fore teeth; this is considered a great badge of honour. It is common for the women to cut off two joints of their little fingers; this operation must be very painful, as their amputating instruments consist of sharks teeth.

Not being able to get any account of the American frigate,* and our provisions being very scanty, we were obliged to give up the pursuit.

29th—Weighed and stood to the eastward.

2nd December—Made the island of Ceram, which we coasted along for a few days; several prows came to reconnoiter, but would not hold any communication with us. This island is inhabited by the most savage tribe, probably in the world; they are but little known, Europeans never having been able to carry on any kind of commerce with them excepting the Dutch slave vessels which are generally navigated by Malays and Javanese. The Ceramese live in the most barbarous state; their atrocious deeds are considered by them as heroic; they are totally unacquainted with, and

* The Essex was afterwards captured, after a smart action. She lately lay in Kingstown harbour, Dublin, as a convict ship.

therefore unsoftened by, the natural ties of filial and parental affection.

The circumstance of a man selling his wife and family for a mere trifle is not uncommon among them. The natives once practised the barbarous custom of eating their prisoners. It is painful to know that they have abandoned this atrocious habit, only because a profit may be derived from the sale of their captives. Although an apparent good has resulted from this practice, yet it has been the cause of more frequent occurrence of wars.

I was informed that the marriage ceremonies among the people cannot be performed before the intended bridegroom produces the skull of an enemy, which must have been slain by himself. A man on producing this trophy can demand any female of his own class; but if he obtains the skull of an European, he can demand a princess, although his origin may be mean. If one prince goes to war with another, they are scarcely ever known to be on terms again, and the most trifling occurrence usually causes hostility. A curious circumstance, which led to a rupture, took place not many months ago. Two ragas, or sultans agreed that they would exchange wives for a certain time, accordingly at the appointed time the sultan, Consingoosoo received the wife of the sultan, Papoosooloo, and the latter the wife of the former. It was discovered that a slave girl supplied the place of her mistress, sultana Consingoosoo.

This enraged the raga so much that the poor slave fell a sacrifice to his merciless hands, and a war was the result. From being on the most friendly and peaceable terms, the sultans have now become the most resolute and determined enemies.

On leaving Ceram our course was directed for Dampiers Straits, but the wind hauling round to the S.W., it was altered for the Gillola Passage. This dangerous navigation we got through in four days. We now entered the great Pacific Ocean with a fine breeze.

18th—This morning saw the Pellew Islands, which we passed close to; the wind which blew hard prevented our having any communication with them.

From the account given by Captain Wilson, who commanded the Antelope packet; it appears when he was wrecked on those islands, that he and his people were received by the natives with the greatest humanity and hospitality, and, until their departure, experienced the utmost courtesy and attention. The natives saw that the English were in distress, and in consequence offered to share their goods with them, and strove to alleviate their sufferings as much as possible. It was, says Captain Wilson, pure love of man to man—it was a scene that pictures human nature in triumphant colouring, influenced the natives, and whilst their liberality gratified the sense, their virtue struck the heart.

He states that he found the natives "simple in their manners, delicate in their sentiments, friendly in their disposition, and, in fine, a people that do honour to the human race."

"The astonishment which the natives, who first discovered the English, manifested on seeing their colour, plainly showed that they had seldom, if ever, seen a white man before. They had no idea of the use of powder and shot, and were exceedingly amazed on seeing its effects. Their principal arms consist of bamboo darts, from five to eight feet long, pointed with the wood of the betle nut tree; but there are short ones for different purposes, which are thrown by means of a stick two feet long. The chiefs wear a bone round one of their wrists, in the form of a bracelet, which, being a mark of great honour conferred by the king, is never parted except with life. They are not all of the same degree of rank, as appeared from a difference in the bone they wore. Captain Wilson was invested with the highest order of the bone.

With respect to property in these islands, a man's house or canoe is considered as his own, as is also the land allotted to him, as long as he occupies and cultivates it; but whenever he removes with his family to another place, the ground reverts to the king, who gives it to whom he pleases. The natives are in general stout and well made, rather above the middle stature, and of a deep copper colour; their hair is long, and

generally formed into one large loose curl round their heads. The men are entirely naked, but the women wear two little aprons, one before and the other behind; both sexes are tattooed, and have their teeth made black by art. Such an opinion had the king of the island entertained of the English, that on their departure, he suffered his second son, Lee Boo, to accompany them to England, where this hopeful youth died of the small pox, in 1784. The East India Company erected a monument over his remains in Rotherhithe church yard."

After taking our departure from those islands, we had one continued gale from the N.E., and a tremendous sea.

24th—Made Cape Esperito Santo, on the N.E. part of the island of Samar, a most welcome landfall, as we hoped to pass through the dangerous straits of St. Bernadino before night. At three p. m., when within six leagues of the entrance, a heavy fog came on, and the wind increased to a perfect storm; not being able to see more than half a cable's length, we brought too under storm-stay-sails. We were on a lee shore, and unable to carry sail, hence our situation was very dangerous. Night having spread her sable mantle over the canopy of heaven, our situation became even more alarming; all hands remained on deck expecting every moment to be driven on the rocks or the inhospitable shore of Luconio, where, if any escaped

shipwreck, they would inevitably fall a prey to the savage inhabitants. Daylight at first promised fairly, and our course was again directed for the straits. At half-past eight p. m., a thick fog again prevailed; the only alternative now left was to make a bold push for the straits, and trust to Providence. We had not long bore up when breakers were discovered on the starboard bow. At this awful crisis the men, who were at breakfast, instantly rushed up; on ascending the main deck, and being unacquainted with the impending danger, I was astounded when the exclamation—"we are lost, we are lost," burst from the panic-struck crew. All was dismay; the sentry at the captain's cabin stood aghast; the high black rocks, and a tremendous sea beating over them with great fury, now appeared to view, and seemed to portend immediate destruction. The captain, with his usual coolness, ordered the ship to be brought too on the larboard tack under close-reefed courses and topsails, which was obeyed with the alacrity characteristic of a well disciplined crew; having hauled to the wind, breakers were seen directly ahead on the lee beam and weather quarter; this was the most awful discovery yet made, as we were not able to weather them. The ship being light, owing to our provisions and water being almost consumed, and carrying a heavy press of sail, we expected every moment that the masts would be carried away. The seas broke right over us, and, as they towered on high, threatened in-

evitable destruction. We had just taken the bearing of the breakers, when the fog became more dense; dismay marked every countenance; at nine the wind shifted one point in our favour; hope now took possession of our breasts, but, alas, it was of short duration; the ship again fell off one point and a-half, which caused general dejection. We could distinctly hear the mountain waves breaking over the rocks as we anxiously looked around for a place to run the ship on. Not a creek could be discovered—not an inlet seen; it is impossible for the imagination to picture a more terrific scene; a watery grave appeared inevitably to await us. We remained in this awful state for an hour, bereft of all hope. At length the fog cleared up for a few minutes in the direction where the looked for danger lay, and, to our unspeakable joy, we discovered that the dreadful breakers had been weathered. A strong current, under God, was the cause of our preservation. Not knowing our exact situation, we kept close to the wind, expecting to see more rocks or land. Our fears were not altogether allayed till twelve, when suddenly the sea and wind went down, which was attributed to our being drifted under the lee of some land. We now sounded, in hope of getting anchorage, but did not succeed; we had just bore up S.W., when we discovered the island of St. Bernadino. The position was ascertained, but the weather coming foggy, and the remainder of the navigation being intricate, we came to

anchor under the island of Camarines, where we were perfectly becalmed. Thus the Lord was pleased to deliver us from a watery grave, and truly we experienced the truth of the Psalmist's declaration—"they that go down to the sea in ships that do business in great waters; these see the works of the Lord and his wonders in the deep; for he commandeth and raiseth the stormy wind which lifteth up the waves thereof; they mount up to heaven; they go down again to the deep; their soul is melted because of trouble; they reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits end; then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses; he maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still; then they are glad because they be quiet, so he bringeth them unto their desired haven." Well may we add, "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his doings, and for his wonderful works to the children of men."

CHAP. XXII.

Arrival at Manilla—Manners, and Customs of its Inhabitants—a Visit to a Popish Chapel.

26th—The fog having vanished, we weighed, and stood to the westward; our passage was very much diversified by the interspersion of numerous islands; several boats came off full of people, who appeared to be a mixture of many nations; the Pintados or painted people, appeared of a tribe more singular than any I had ever seen; their bodies were pricked with the most extraordinary figures, resembling dragons, serpents, and deities only known to themselves, and whom they worship. The Pintados are the inhabitants of the mountains of Luconio; they live in the trees, and feed on wild herbs and fruit.

Those islands, which form an immense archipelago, owe their name to Philip the Second of Spain, who formed a scheme of planting a colony here. In compliment to him they were called the Philippines; they were discovered by the famous Magellon, in 1521, and are said to be 1210 in number; some of them lie in the China Sea and the rest in the Pacific Ocean.

31st—Anchored in Manilla harbour, situated ont he west side of Luconio or Luzon, and near the Lake

Bahai. This island is the chief of the Philippines, it is three hundred and fifty miles long, and one hundred and forty broad.

When Magellon first discovered it, he circumnavigated a considerable part before he found any habitation. The inhabitants of the first hut he visited were grinding corn, and on being asked the name of the island, replied, Luzon, which was the name of their grinding stone; to this mistake Luzon or Luconio owes its name. Manilla, the capital of Luzon, is well fortified and defended by the castle of St. Philip. Many of the public buildings are constructed of wood, on account of the frequency of earthquakes, by one of which, in 1617, a mountain was levelled, and in 1625, a third part of the city overthrown; on another occasion three hundred inhabitants perished in the ruins; and in 1814, they were thrown into the greatest consternation, owing to an eruption on one of the largest mountains; the ashes from it reached the town, (distant one hundred and thirty miles,) which caused the people, fearful of being blinded, to keep in their houses.

The city of Manilla is situated near the Lake Bahia, on the south coast. The bay may be called a circular basin, ten leagues in diameter, nearly land-locked; but the port peculiar to the city, called Cavete, lies nine miles to the south, the usual station of the ships employed in the Archipelago trade. In 1762, Manilla was taken by General Draper and Admiral Cornish,

who humanely suffered the viceroy to ransom it for £200,000, a great part of which was never paid. Luzon is not so hot as might be imagined, being well watered by lakes, rivers, and the periodical rains, which inundate the plains; there are also a variety of hot springs on this island. The inhabitants of the interior are supplied with water from the tree, amet, a kind of cane which, when cut, yields sufficient for a draught. The latter abounds in the mountains where water is not to be had in any other way.

During our stay here we had frequent opportunities of visiting the several families, whose customs and manners at first appeared very disgusting; yet their hospitality and kindness, in some degree recompensed this defect. They vied with each other in their exertions to pay the greatest attention; the ladies especially, who always appeared delighted in the society of the English, were most agreeable. Although the mental accomplishments of the females are not in the least interesting, yet their animated manners, figure and features, may be considered, by some, very engaging; but their demeanor differs widely from the dear sisters of Erin.

The first visit we made was to the governor of Cavite; we were received by this old Spanish veteran and his four daughters with marked kindness, which assured us that we were not unwelcome visitors. The ladies were dressed like the natives, having a loose

petticoat fastened a little above the hips, while a short muslin bedgown barely covered the remainder of their persons. Their hair hung loose over the shoulders, without any ornament; they wore no stockings—sandals supplied the place of shoes. This dress may at first appear indelicate. The only apology I can offer for them is, that it is the most comfortable and best adapted for a warm climate. All the ladies of Manilla prefer it to a more showy one; and it is only when they go to public places that they wear European costume. They have imbibed all the idle habits of the natives; the day is spent in bathing, chewing betle, smoking cigars, and sleeping. The greatest compliment a lady can offer a gentleman is a cigar which she has used herself. If she forms an attachment for a gentleman, which frequently takes place after only a a few hours' interview, she makes it known to him without much ceremony, merely by placing her mouth close to his, and putting the betle in his mouth which probably has been chewed by her for an hour; no greater insult can be offered the fair one, than the gentleman's not receiving it. When a lady receives her suitor, she first compliments him, on his appearance, and then presents him with a cup of chocolate and a cigar of an enormous size, about thirty inches long and five in circumference. After smoking a little she then invites him to bathe; they both proceed, dressed in an attire provided for the occasion, and con-

tinue their equatic amusements for upwards of an hour, smoking and chewing betle.

From one to three o'clock is generally occupied by the Spanish inhabitants in sleep. On this occasion, a large room, being always in readiness for the family and visitors, is hung round with hammocks, each person occupying one, where ladies and gentlemen indiscriminately retire. After this repose they sit down to dinner; and I could not but observe that the ladies eat more than the gentlemen. The evening is spent in idle promenade, occasionally visiting confectionary shops, where the fair ones devour most voraciously of the coarcest food, such as sausages strongly seasoned with garlic; they then repair with their lovers to the so called house of prayer, the popish chapel, others repair thither by appointment.

Having heard much of the vile conduct practised in those temples dedicated to God, I was led by curiosity, accompanied by several of the officers, to ascertain the truth. On our entering this professedly holy place, it was with much difficulty we could grope our way to a seat, owing to the darkness which prevailed; a *dim* lamp, suspended at the upper end, was the only light to the interior of an immense edifice; it was somewhat remarkable, that the congregation kept at the lower end, which was perfectly dark. The officiating priest was not visible to us; we could only hear a coarse, loud voice, muttering an unintelligible gibberish, while

many of the congregation were engaged in conversation, or rather an audible whisper, and apparently quite indifferent to the holy man, appointed by the vicegerent of Christ to forgive sins. The scene near us was only calculated for the lowest grade of houses, and was of too revolting a character to bear description; and at the time many of us, perhaps all, uninfluenced by true Bible and Protestant morality, and although tars, accustomed to the boisterous element, we left this house of Antichrist with disgust.

I could not but draw a contrast between the fair ones of this island and that of my own country, where virtue, with every other becoming modesty, is to be found. I should not recommend my countrymen to seek for a wife in Manilla or its parent country, from the pretty fair specimen I had of their habits.

It is a singular fact, that notwithstanding the constant trade to and from China, with Manilla, we could not procure a pound of tea that had not been previously chewed; although there was as much in the stores as would load four ships. This was rather a privation to us, as we had been for some time without any, and were obliged to substitute toasted peas for coffee; however, we were here well supplied with chocolate; the process of making it was almost as disgusting as the chewed tea, a large quantity of the nut being pounded, is mixed with a portion of filthy grease in a vessel, which, being well compounded by the constant trampling of the naked feet

of men, is then made into round balls, and left to harden for use.

It is almost unnecessary to observe that the Chinese use an immoderate quantity of tea as drink and mastication; their use of it in the latter way resembles a smoking house in England. Brass urns are produced for each person to throw the chewed tea into, reversing the order of smoking tobacco, as the Chinese swallow the juice of the tea; and after its substance is well extracted by the constant motion of the jaws, it is carefully put into the urns, and when a quantity is collected, it is placed on sheets of copper in the sun to dry, and then put into chests and sold. This imposition cannot be practised on good tea; however, I would recommend my readers, occasionally to examine the leaves, when drawn, and if they observe them punctured, they may rest assured they had been penetrated by a Chinese tooth.

18th January, 1815—Our water and provisions being complete, we took our departure from Manilla and directed our course across the China seas; our passage was very favourable owing to the N. E. monsoon; we were but nine days in going to Malacca, a distance of 2550 miles.

19th February—Anchored in Madras Roads, and the following day received the pleasing orders to take a convoy home. Every exertion was made to refit and prepare for the voyage, and notwithstanding the weak

state of the crew, we were enabled to new rig and caulk the ship.

1st March—We made the signal for the homeward-bound India ship to weigh, and in the evening sailed with the land wind.

CHAP. XXIII.

Arrival at Madras and Columbo—Dethroning of the King of Kandy—Bravery and Death of Lieutenant Blakeney of the 19th Regiment—Final Departure from India—Dreadful Storm, in which one of the Fleet was Wrecked—Arrival at the Cape of Good Hope.

18th—ANCHORED in Colombo Roads (where we were joined by other ships) in time to see the King of Kandy led captive into the town. This monarch, owing to his tyranny, caused a rebellion among his subjects, and was dethroned by the British. My feelings were very peculiar on seeing him, from the circumstance of his brother having slain my uncle, who was employed on an expedition in 1803, under the command of Major Davy, with three hundred men of the 19th regiment, to take the city of Kandy, situated in the centre of the island, which they succeeded in. An attack was afterwards made by the Kandians; the following account of which, given by an officer of the 19th regiment, as quoted by one of the public journals, may be interesting:

"On the 23rd June, 1803, the Kandians, who had assembled, made an attack on the garrison, which had the greatest part of the Europeans sick of the jungle fever. The Kandians, finding they could make no impression by their fire from the hills, detached a body of Malays and Caffrees, in their service, intoxicated by opium, and headed by a ferocious chief, who attempted to storm one of the detached works, defended by two approved

subalterns, Lieutenants Blakeney and Plenderlath, of the 19th, and about twenty men of the same regiment, with a six pounder. The savages marched boldly to the gateway, although galled by the fire of our few brave men; they persevered seemingly with the intention of animating and showing a brave example to the Kandians, who were firing on us from the hills. They at length reached the gateway, headed by their principal general; and after much fighting succeeded in getting into the work, but not before they had numbers killed. The general was instantly attacked by Lieutenant Blakeney, in person, and our men began to use the bayonet, which the Malays did not relish at all. In the mean time a violent contest ensued between the general and Lieutenant Blakeney —both of them being very strong and powerful men—they closed and fell to the ground entangled in each other, Blakeney uppermost; the treacherous general, however, contrived to draw his kreese or dagger, with which he stabbed poor Blakeney in the eye; the point entered the brain and caused instant death; this was, however, soon revenged by Lieutenant Plenderlath, who, having at the moment killed a Malay he was engaged with, and seeing the chief getting up from poor Blakeney, seized a bayonet from a soldier's musket, and, thrusting at the chief, stabbed him to the heart. Unfortunately this brave officer was immediately shot by a Caffree through the thigh. The Malays seeing their general killed, and not liking the treatment of the British bayonet, fled in all directions out of the works towards the Kandians, who still, like cowards, kept aloof; the Malays soon again returned to the charge in immense numbers, and, after a close struggle, succeeded."

A monument was erected in memory of Blakeney and still remains to perpetuate his heroic conduct; the circumstance of his noble defence is narrated fully in a manuscript at present preserved in a library at the Isle of France.

The cruelties practiced on the British captives were

horrifying; the eyes of many were taken out and the remainder put to death. Major Davy was reserved as a footstool for the king, and shortly after, his eyes being taken out, died.

We received the throne and sceptre of the captive king, for the purpose of conveying them to England, to King George III. The throne was very like a large chair, the arms of which represented tigers' heads; and the whole was beautifully studded with precious stones of every description; the sceptre was made of iron, about four feet long, an inch and half thick, and handsomely adorned on the top with a large diamond, and other precious stones.

1st April—Before day light this morning, the joyful sound of "all hands up anchor," echoed through the ship, and in a few minutes we were under weigh.

4th—Arrived off Point de Gall, where we were joined by ten of the Honourable East India Company's ships, and at sun set took our final departure from India.

18th May—Discovered Point Natal, the eastern part of Africa, and in the night experienced a very heavy gale of wind, which dispersed our convoy, carried away our fore and main-top-masts, and unshipped our rudder. The ship being unmanageable, we expected every moment to be ingulfed, having shipped many heavy seas. At day light saw two of the convoy, and made the signal of distress on which they

immediately bore down, but were unable to render any assistance, owing to the wind blowing with increased fury, until the following morning, when, with great exertion, we fixed the rudder in a temporary manner.

The wind again increased with great fury, and being on the banks of La Gulas, the sea ran tremendously high; had not our rudder been secured we would, in all human probability, have been lost. On the third day of the gale we discovered two of our convoy with their top-mast gone; one of them, the Arneston, hoisted the signal of distress, but we were unable to give assistance; and melancholy to relate, she was driven on shore this night, and every soul, but four seamen, amounting to three hundred and fifteen men, twenty-five women, and twenty-two children, met a watery grave. Among the sufferers were Lord and Lady Molesworth, several officers, their wives and children.

The account given by the men, providentially saved, was most lamentable. They stated that on the ship being driven ashore, the lower deck filled with water, and forced it against the upper, and squeezed to death, upwards of one hundred and fifty souls; the yell at this moment from the perishing creatures, was awful in the extreme. The fore part of the ship separated from the after, and in an instant, she was a complete wreck. The men saved could give no account as to the manner of their escape. They were all driven on shore, sense-

less; the first that awoke from his stupor ran from the scene of disaster, two others followed his example; when they accidentally met in the evening, they made their way down to the shore in quest of food, and while examining the casks they found one of their shipmates in an empty one almost ready to expire, but he was soon restored to strength. These poor men remained for several days on the beach making graves for the bodies, as they were washed on shore. When assistance was sent from the Cape of Good Hope, they were relieved from their laborious task. Lord and Lady Molesworth were found in each others arms, as also several of the married people with some of the children clung to them. The sufferings of many must have been great, as their limbs were found shattered to atoms.

24th—This morning, made the Cape of Good Hope, and in the evening anchored in Simon's Bay, within half a mile of the town of the same name.

The Cape of Good Hope is situated in the southern extremity of Africa—was discovered by Bartholemew Diaz, in the year 1487. He gave it the name of Capo Dos Totos Tormentos, or Tormentoso, owing to the many heavy storms he met with near the coast. The King of Portugal afterwards changed it to its present name. Doubling, or going round the Cape, is well known to all mariners as a most difficult passage. Ships are very frequently lost in the attempt; as an instance of which, his majesty's ships—Blenheim, a seventy-

four; the Java frigate, and the Harrier brig, of fourteen guns, were lost in a gale of wind, and ingulphed in the open ocean, without the obstruction of rocks or sand. Every soul, amounting to upwards of one thousand two hundred, perished. This may give an idea of the difficulty of rounding the Cape in certain seasons of the year.

John Van Riebeck was the first who formed the plan of settling here, and accordingly sailed with a fleet and built the town, now called Cape Town. The settlement was found of great utility to the mother country, and afforded refreshments and stores to ships bound to and from India. He acquired the good will of the natives, and every thing succeeded to his wishes. It was taken by the British in 1806, in whose possession it now is. The climate is salubrious, and the soil very fertile. The spring commences in October, the summer in January, the autumn in April, and the winter in July. The population is upwards of 100,000.

Africa is about four thousand three hundred miles long, and three thousand five hundred miles broad, and is, perhaps, one of the most unhealthy climates in the world; it lies nearly within the tropics, the sun going over the greater part of it, from north to south; hence it is subject to an extreme of heat. Many parts of Africa are parched deserts, and barren to a degree; in moist places, however, and especially in valleys situated

near rivers, the fertility is extremely great. The situation of Africa renders it very convenient for commerce, having a nearer communication, owing to its central situation, with Europe, Asia, and America. Nevertheless, on account of the ignorance of the inhabitants, but little commerce, comparatively speaking, is carried on. There are three kinds of inhabitants, the Moors in the north; the negroes in the middle, and the Caffrees in the south; the first of these resemble Europeans most, while negroes are black, and Caffrees brown, the Hottentots and bushmen, dwelling in the north of the district of the Cape of Good Hope, are most remarkable and disgusting in their appearance. The inhabitants profess Paganism, Mahometanism, and Christianity. Pagans are the most numerous, and possess a large portion of the country. The negroes pay great attention to the changes of the moon, and are so superstitious as to believe that it is unlucky to undertake a journey in the last quarter. They believe an eclipse to be effected by magic, and but little regard the stars. They hold that the world is unexplorable as to its termination, being overhung with darkness, and look upon their own country as the best.

Africans consider that the Deity is the great Creator of all things, but so remote from all care as to be unmoved by the prayers of weak mortals. On the return of the new moon, they offer prayers merely

because it was a custom observed by their ancestors. Having visited the greater number of the West India isles, I had an opportunity of seeing the treatment which the slaves received there; they were supported at a very moderate rate, on a small allowance of rice; great encouragement was given to them to "increase and multiply," but the ill treatment they received shortened their lives; hence, instead of increasing according to the course of nature, many thousands were annually sent to supply the place of those who died and had pined away from the hardship they received. Their overseers, the dregs of Europe, and the refuse of jails, treated them as beasts of burden. Some of the negroes having fallen into the hands of gentlemen of humanity, found their situations comparatively easy and comfortable. It has been observed that those who treated their slaves well, were, in return, better served by them, and were in less danger of losing their lives by rebellion.

The slaves, on their first arrival from Africa to the West Indies, were exposed naked for sale—no respect was paid to age or sex; however, in all their tribulation they were solaced with the hope of again visiting their dear and native land after death. They looked on death as a blessing, and it is surprising with what courage they have usually met it; it was to them a joyful hope that their slavery would end, and that they would again see their near and dear friends in Africa.

When a slave was about to die, his countrymen used to kiss and wish him a prosperous journey, at the same time sending their love to their relations and acquaintances. On the funeral occasion they made no lamentations, but interred the body with joy, believing that the deceased had gone home. When well treated, these poor people are most faithful, kind, and generous. The following circumstance, related by Captain Seagroe in his account of a voyage to Guinea, may serve as an instance of negro generosity :—

"A new English sloop, trading to Guinea, in 1752, left there a second mate, named William Murray, sick on shore, and sailed without him. Murray was at the house of a black man, named Cudgoe, with whom he had contracted an acquaintance, during their trade. Murray recovered, and the sloop having gone, continued with his black friend till some opportunity should offer of his getting home. In the mean time, a Dutch ship came into the roads, and some of the black men, going on board, were seized and carried off as slaves; the relations and friends, transported with sudden rage, ran to the house of Cudgoe to take revenge, by killing Murray. Cudgoe stopped them at the door, and demanded of them what they wanted. 'The white men,' they said, 'have carried away our brothers and sons, and we will kill all white men. Give us the white man you have in your house, for we will kill him.' 'Nay,' said Cudgoe, 'the white men that carried away your relations

are bad men, kill them when you can take them.' 'But he is a white man,' they cried, 'and white men are all bad men, we will kill them all.' 'Nay,' said he, 'you must not kill a man that has done no harm; this man is my friend, and my house is his post. I am his soldier, and you must fight for him; you must kill me, before you kill him. What good man will come again under my roof, if I let my floor be stained with a good man's blood?' The others seeing him resolute, and being convinced by his discourse that they were wrong, went away ashamed.

"In a few days, Murray visited abroad with his friend Cudgoe, when several of the natives took him by the hand, and told him, they were glad they had not killed him; for he was a good man, (meaning innocent.) Even among those poor creatures, there are many proofs of generosity and humanity. The latter is considered by them the noblest trait in the character of a white man; but alas! only few negroes have experienced it."

The Hottentots are peculiarly deserving of notice, being a most extraordinary race. They are similar in height to Europeans, and of a very singular appearance; there is something in their features different from the generality of mankind; the cheek bones are very high, and the face very broad at that part, which, together with the gradual decrease of the visage to the chin, causes the poor Hottentot to appear very ugly; their hands and feet are particularly small in proportion to the

other parts of the body; their complexion is of a dark brown hue; and they commonly wear sheepskins; they always pluck out the little beard which grows below the nose and on the chin, and thus render themselves effeminate looking; the Hottentots are very careless about domestic matters, only providing for immediate wants; the present is the alone object of their attention; females as well as males usually appear in public, bareheaded, and do not wear any hanging from their ears or noses; the latter are sometimes marked by a black streak on the forehead, which is thought an ornament. Both sexes wear leather straps on their arms; and hence the notion has arisen that they wrap guts about them for the purpose of eating whenever they may require it. Young females are not allowed to wear any such ornament until they arrive at the years of maturity. Their habitations consist of small huts, from about sixteen to twenty-two feet in diameter, and are of a round form; they are so low that the inhabitants can scarcely stand upright in them; however, this is no inconvenience to the Hottentot, who finds no difficulty in stooping; the fire is situated in the centre, around which they sit or lie; although all the family sleep together, yet the strictest chastity is observed, and the supposition that the distinguishing laws of nature are unknown to them is unfounded.

Simon's Town is situated close to the shore, and

has a very pleasing effect; the houses, which are all flat-roofed, gradually rise up to the mountains, and are very tastefully laid out with flower gardens.

Our stay here was attended with much amusement, which we were unable to partake of with any degree of pleasure in India. Hunting, shooting, and fishing, we enjoyed much, the climate at this season being congenial to manual exercise; we frequently fell in with great numbers of bears, who immediately, on our approach, flocked together like sheep, and were perfectly harmless; we understood that had we fired at them, or approached with hostility, they would have attacked us with their wonted courage; however, we always passed on peaceably. On one shooting excursion (accompanied only by a young boy, son of Major Murray, of the 73rd regiment,) in the vicinity of Simon's Town, I was much terrified, on ascending nearly to the top of one of the mountains, which are bare of trees or shrubs, and accessible by small shelving rocks from the base to the summit. Being much fatigued, we were occasionally obliged to rest, and while enjoying ourselves, and about to observe the surrounding scenery, the bay, shipping, town, and country, I discovered a tiger about fifteen yards above us in a posture ready to pounce on us. The danger which I had exposed my young companion to, who was a most intelligent lad, eight years of age, and a protegé of mine from India, upon whom, I had perceived, the tiger had

fixed his eyes on for his prey. My feelings were greatly excited for his safety. Notwithstanding my state of mind, I instantly loaded with slugs, intending to fire at once; but Providence, the director of all events, guided our steps; we descended cautiously keeping a watchful eye on the enemy. When about a hundred yards from the animal we saw her rise slowly; this was an awful moment; terror had now almost got possession of me. The circumstance of a countryman, and friend of mine, in India, having shot a tiger while actually in the air, and springing on him, flashed across my mind. I now halted, and resolved to wait its approach, knowing if pursued, we would be soon overtaken; but to our great joy, we observed the animal moving off in a direction from us.

This part of the country is well cultivated, although the soil is light; horses are very seldom used for husbandry; bullocks supply their place; it is not uncommon to see twenty of them drawing a waggon; they travel at a quick pace, piloted by a black boy, who runs before, at whatever rate the waggoner may wish, who sits on a high seat, with a whip at least three times the length of any used in England. This man is unable to guide the entire yoke of bullocks, hence the boy is employed as a guide to the leaders, who are well acquainted with his jestures and conversation.

During our stay, the Africaine underwent a general examination by the carpenters of the fleet, then in

harbour, when it was discovered her sides wanted new planking; some few having been taken out, it was discovered her ribs were so rotten that the bolts would not fasten, and the ship was found in every part decayed. Owing to this statement, we expected to be transferred to another ship, and that ours would be broken up; we remained under this impression for nearly two months, when, to our great surprise, we were ordered to sail for England.

CHAP. XXIV.

Arrival at St. Helena—Description of the Island—a Retrospect Account of the Action between His Majesty's Ship, Horatio, and the French Frigate Junon—Distressed State of the Ship, owing to the Springing of a Leak—Arrival at Bantry Bay and England.

9th September—We this day weighed for St. Helena, where we arrived on the 24th.

St. Helena is situated in 5° 49" west longitude, and 15° 55" south latitude; it is upwards of 1200 miles from the coast of Africa, and 1800 from South America, and within the limits of S.E. trade winds. This island is about twenty-five miles in circumference, and was discovered by John De Nora, a Portuguese, when returning from India, on 21st May, 1501. His countrymen stocked it well with goats and poultry, and found it very convenient to land at when returning from India; it was then also stocked with partridge and pheasants, and planted with fruit trees, which throve so well, and increased so largely, that many have thought them the natural produce of the island. It is doubtful whether the Portuguese colonized the island; for the Dutch, on taking possession, found it altogether abandoned; it became the property of the English in 1600, and was retained by them until 1673, when it was taken by the Dutch, who did not long enjoy their conquest

as it again fell into our hands; the appearance of the island from sea is that of an immense rock, perpendicular on every side, and only accessible at the bay, called Chapel Valley, where it is strongly fortified by cannon; the immense surge, perpetually dashing against the shore, renders access very dangerous. On a near approach, the eminence, situated in the centre of the island, and towering to the clouds, burst upon our view; it is clothed with pasturage, and presents a striking scene. Still nearer, the fertile summits were hidden from our view, by the intervention of lofty cliffs, which overhang the anchorage below, and causes the mind to be excited with the idea of a too near approach to shore. As there is no anchorage but at Chapel Valley it is extremely dangerous; for the winds always set from the S.E., and if the ship overshoots it, it is hard to recover the anchorage again, which is from about ten to twenty fathoms. Although St. Helena appears to be a barren rock, yet, on the summit, it is covered with a fine mould, nearly two feet deep, which produces all kinds of grain and vegetables in profusion. The town is situated to leeward of the island, in a valley, and bordered by lofty mountains. Every family has its house on the higher part of the island, where they tend their cattle and poultry, &c., and mind their gardens. The white houses in the valley peeping through the trees have a beautiful effect, and would afford a nice landscape for the painter. Ships frequently touch here to

water, which is conveyed to them from a spring, about three miles up the island, through leaden pipes, which afford an excellent supply. On landing, we were amazed at the strength of the fortifications; guns are placed on the hills, which border the town as far as the eye can reach; they are pointed towards the shipping. After ascending the rock which borders the sea, and by which alone access is gained to the interior, the country is beautifully diversified with hills and verdant valleys; the former covered with herbage and the latter adorned with gardens and fruit trees, among which the villas are interspersed; herds of cattle low through the fields. Altogether the scenery is beautiful; lofty hills rising in a curved direction; handsome houses and plantations; verdure contrasted with barren cliffs and ripling streams, meandering through fruitful valleys, render the scene at once majestic and picturesque. Streams issue from almost every mountain, the largest of which falls from a height of about 250 feet, and descends as a shower to the country below. There are no cascades of any magnitude, a circumstance strange in such an island. The population amounts to upwards of two thousand, exclusive of the garrison and civil establishment; the military force consists of a corpse of artillery, commanded by a colonel; a regiment of infantry and a few companies of black and white malitia. There is only one parish and two churches, one in the town, the other in the country.

The inhabitants are generally descendants of, or some way allied to, the English. French refugees had been encouraged to settle here to propagate vines, and make wine. Strangers, while they remain, are accommodated in private houses, which are converted into lodgings, or houses of refreshment. Hogs, poultry, fruit, goats, &c., are in the greatest plenty; bullocks and sheep are supplied from the Cape of Good Hope. No kind of butchers' meat is allowed to be killed without the permission of the governor.

Sentinels are always placed on the heights to watch strange sails; hundreds of goats are frequently seen on the highest mountains, which, as they bound from rock to rock, strike the observer with amazement. The cliffs hiding their heads in the clouds, and the deep abyss below, causes the head to grow dizzy and the eye to wander fearfully.

The general appearance of the island is that of rugged mountains, huge impending rocks, and caves, which afford shelter to the nimble inhabitants of the wilds; impending clouds which intervene and sometimes obscure the deep valleys from sight, renders the scene truly remarkable and picturesque. The natives, who spread themselves along the verge of the mountains, collect the goats, and drive them towards the pound by shouts and the rolling of stones, which echo through the cliffs and valleys, and have a most romantic effect; the flocks bound with the greatest agility from rock to

rock, and are followed by the hunters, who tread cautiously the rugged path, fearful of stumbling into the abyss beneath.

The goats, on approaching the pound, form into one body, and rush forward, and thus fall a prey to their pursuers. Oftentimes goats cannot be taken without the assistance of a gun, many parts of the island being very steep.

The following anecdotes, as recorded in history, will serve to point out the nature of the country. About the year, 1718, two of the Company's slaves, who preferred a free booting life to that of labour and subjection to their overseers, made choice of a cave about half way up a steep acclivity which terminated in a spiral rock. From this strange hole their nocturnal sallies and depredations were carried on with success, for several weeks; and even after their retreat was discovered, they stood a siege of four days, and repelled attacks by throwing down stones on their assailants, until at last it was deemed necessary to send a party of soldiers to fire on them if they refused to surrender in twenty-four hours.

The agility of a young man, named Warrel, and three others, rendered their measures unnecessary. They went on the opposite side of the mountain and climbed up until they gained a situation above the cave, the mouth of which became thus exposed to the same mode of attack, which had so effectually operated for

its defence, when the free booters approached the edge of the precipice to roll down stones. Warrel's discharge from above, maimed one of them so much that he died, and the others were much bruised.

The recollection of this incident ought to give confidence to any party, however trifling in number, that may be posted for the defence of difficult and dangerous passes, which in many parts of the island, afford the only access into the interior.

Some time ago, a sailor, on his return from the country, wandered among the cliffs, near Ladder Hill, which overhangs the sea, and found himself at last in a place where he could neither return nor discover any method of escape. In this perilous situation he remained until the following morning, when, perceiving a party going to swim on the beach beneath him, he threw his shoes down to attract notice; he succeeded, and was soon released by the natives, who ventured within a few fathoms of him and lowered down a rope, to which he fastened himself, and by this means he was hauled up in safety.

I visited this island in the year 1809, in his majesty's ship, Horatio. My thoughts now naturally recurred to days gone by, and to circumstances which left a pleasing remembrance. War then raged with dreadful fury, and many a brave life was sacrificed for his native land. Now the wars have ceased, and the thunders of old England are hushed into the sweet and gentle repose of

peace; and as many an eventful day passed in quick succession before my mind, the action between his majesty's ship, Horatio,* and the French national frigate, Junon, was not the least interesting subject that engaged my thoughts. The narrative of that circumstance may prove interesting, and afford the reader some idea of a sea fight, and of British valour.

At dawn of day, on the 10th of February, 1809, while cruizing in the Prickly Pear passage, West Indies, the man at the mast head reported a strange sail on the lee bow. As we had been cruizing for a considerable time, without making a capture, the report was hailed with great joy, and the command—"all hands make sail," was obeyed with more than usual alacrity. Being under easy sail, the reefs were shook out of the topsails, the topgallant sails, royals and studding sails were set, and the wind being on the starboard beam, our course was directed steadily. At 9, a. m., saw the strange sail from the deck, standing in a direction towards us, under a heavy press of canvass, from the dark colour of which, we conjectured her to be a French ship. All now was anxiety, every eye was strained in observing the chase, and every heart beat anxiously. When I was standing on the forecastle, and viewing the strange sail, through a spy glass, the first lieutenant of the ship, Manly Hall Dixon, came up to me, and with great eagerness,

* Commanded by the present Admiral Sir G. Scott, K. C. B.

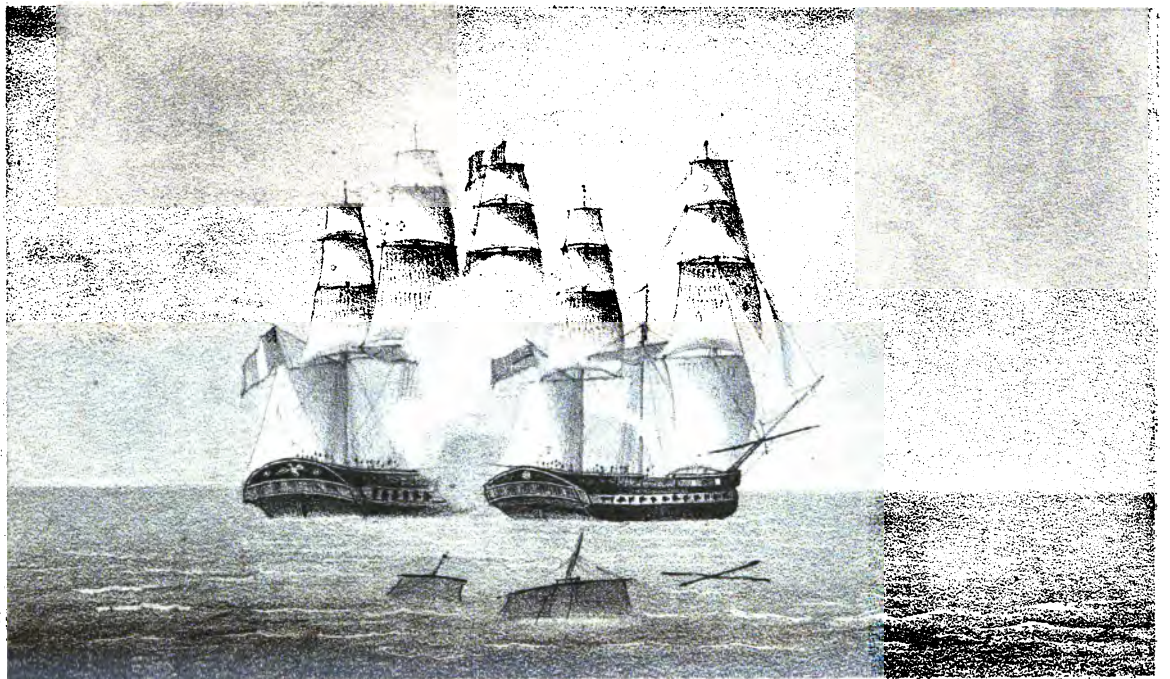
asked my opinion respecting the chase. Having informed him that I believed her to be a French man-of-war, tears of joy burst from his eyes, and he exclaimed, "this will be a glorious day for us." Such were the patriotic feelings of the brave tar who anxiously wished to wield his sword in defence of his native land. At half past ten, our hopes were fully realised, her sails, rigging and hull, evidenced the nation to which she belonged, and the soul stirring and usual air—

"Hearts of oak are our ships,"

immediately resounded through the ship. In less than five minutes our gallant sailors cleared the decks for action, which consisted in taking down the bulk-heads, loosing the gun-tackles, bringing up powder and shot, lighting the matches, the seamen girding on their swords and pistols, and the marines filling their cartouch boxes with ball cartridge, &c., &c. The men performing their appointed duties presented a most animated scene. Captain Scott ordered the union-jack to be lashed to the main-top gallant-mast-head, and the ensign to the mizen peak, determined to sink or conquer. The preparations having been completed, the seamen at the guns and in the tops, and the marines drawn up on the gangway and other parts of the ship, a deathlike silence prevailed; the men anxiously awaiting the word of command—"FIRE." As the enemy approached, the scene was awfully grand; the day was

beautiful, and the sea lightly ruffled, while the enemy advanced with an unaltered course and spreading sails, the decks crowded with the national uniform, the numerous bayonets glistening in the sun, and the majestic appearance of the ship as she proudly approached, portended a dreadful and bloody conflict. It was unusual to behold a French ship thus boldly advancing to meet an English man-of-war. At twelve o'clock the enemy, being close under the starboard bow, hoisted her colours and gave three cheers, which was heartily responded to by our brave crew. We now passed (the yard-arms touching each other), and exchanged broadsides, which had the appearance of a complimentary salute. The fire of the enemy was very distructive, especially from the small arms and the swivels, in the tops. Several of our men were killed and wounded, amongst the latter was Lieutenant Dixon, who received a ball in the thigh, and was otherwise badly wounded; so enthusiastic was he for the cause for which he was engaged, that he remained unconscious of his state until he was informed of it by an officer, who observed the blood pouring from his wound: he then reluctantly allowed himself to be carried below. The enemy attempted to wear under our stern; on observing her manœuvre we immediately hauled to the wind, on the larboard tack, to prevent being raked; the action was now carried on with determined spirit on both sides, yard-arm to yard-

arm; the fire on both sides was kept up with great vigour, but the enemy's guns being on the non-recoil principle, they were able to fire much quicker. At half-past twelve, our masts and rigging being much crippled, and fearing that the enemy would escape, we ran on board of her, cast our grapling irons, and then fought muzzle to muzzle; we continued in this position about half an hour, when the enemy boarded. Our boarders were instantly summoned by the boatswain's pipe, and a bloody conflict ensued in the rigging, hand to hand. The cutlass, boarding-pike, tomahawk, pistol, musket, and bayonet, were well handled on both sides; notwithstanding, the enemy boarded with all their force, (more than double ours) they were repulsed by the superior nerve and valour of about a hundred seamen, supported by the marines; their men fell dead and wounded on our deck; the great guns now resumed their fire as warmly as ever, which was partly suspended, owing to the employment of the boarders; about half-past one, our gallant captain received a wound from a swivel in the main top; twenty one musket balls in a canister, struck him on the shoulder, and carried away the collar and part of the blade bone; he fell into the arms of a sailor and marine, and was carried to the cock-pit with as much secrecy as possible. The valuable services of our brave commander was nobly supplied by the second lieutenant, the Honourable George Douglas, a youth of un-



Drawn on Stone by B. Clayton

Printed at Allen's Tr. by St.

daunted courage, who was struck by a musket ball in the hat, on ascending the quarter deck; he fought the ship during the remainder of the action like a brave tar; the enemy again boarded with all hands, but were repulsed with great loss. This attempt was followed by the throwing of boxes of about two and a-half square feet, containing combustible matter of a most offensive nature, with the hope of causing confusion and facilitating their design of boarding, which they attempted a third time. One of these dreadful combustibles fell into our main chains, and set fire to the rigging, but was instantly discovered and thrown overboard, without doing further injury; another fell on the gangway and was dispatched into the sea by Lieutenant Douglas. As a proof how little undaunted even the youths of Britain are in the moment of battle, it is worthy of remark to observe that two of our powder boys, about twelve years of age, while in the heat of action, having gotten a plumb-pudding out of the coppers, quarrelled about dividing it, when a most scientific round of pugelism was fought. A sailor, on learning the cause of the quarrel, and observing the pudding on the deck, took it and rammed it into the cannon. The dismay of the poor boys was great on observing the cannon, which contained their rich banquet, fired off. At about two o'clock I received a contusion in the head from a splinter, and, being senseless, was carried to the cockpit by two of my brave marines.

On being roused from the stupor, I beheld a scene of which the imagination can scarcely form an idea: the cockpit was strewed with the wounded and dying. The pale countenances and dim eyes which so short a time before beamed fire, and the arm so lately nerved with redoubled strength, but now powerless, presented a striking contrast to the scene above; some of the wounded were writhing in the agonies of death; others groaning under the hands of the surgeon; and many of the less severely wounded passing jokes as a cheer to their ship mates, while the lamp reflected a dim light upon all. The captain, although one of the most dangerously wounded, was among the most cheerful, and eagerly asked me how we were getting on above. Having been informed he ordered me to tell Douglas to board with every man, woman,* and child, adding

* We had seven married women on board, who, on this occasion as well as every other, were very useful, and displayed a truly heroic mind, and were constantly seen, fore and aft, exhorting the men to recollect Nelson's signal, "England expects that every man will do his duty." They were also most active in supplying shot, powder, and water. The most acceptable drink I ever received was from one of those women, who presented me with an old, greasy, glazed hat filled with water, which was soon emptied by my surrounding companions. There was a damp soon thrown over this poor woman's spirits, her husband being cut in two by a cannon ball, one part of him was thrown over board; she, observing the other part about to be committed to the deep, seized it with the affection of a fond wife, and it was with much difficulty she could be prevailed upon to part with it.

that he would blow up the ship sooner than strike. On my conveying the captain's instructions to Douglas, the boatswain's whistle summoned all hands to board, but the enemy being observed at this moment on fire, and fearing that it would communicate to us, we were reluctantly obliged to sheer off to the distance of about pistol shot, where we still continued to pour in our broadsides. The enemy having succeeded in extinguishing the fire, fought with their usual bravery, and crippled us so that we were unable to grapple again. Our main and mizen-top-masts, gaff, and consequently our colours, were shot away, hence the enemy thinking that we had struck, gave three cheers, which was instantly returned by our gallant crew. We had no immediate way of hoisting our colours, which now hung over the larboard quarter, when one of the quarter-master's, named Boyd,* got up the mizen mast, and lashed a union jack to the stump of the top mast, but received a musket ball in the arm which obliged him to descend precipitately.

The enemy fought with the gallantry characteristic of their nation; but the valour and determined spirit of our crew (under God) was unconquerable.

* This gallant tar was afterwards rewarded for his service, by being appointed master to his Majesty's schooner, Thistle, of ten guns, then about to cruise on the coast of America, where she fell in with the Dutch ship, De Havock, of eighteen guns, laden with spices, and, after a long-contested action, captured her.

At a quarter past three she struck her colours, and while in the act of hauling them down, all her masts went by the board. The air now resounded with three hearty cheers, which was responded by our wounded companions in the cockpit, who, in their enfeebled and dying state, thus manifested the joy with which they heard the deafening shouts of victory; she proved to be the French national frigate, "Junon," of the largest class, mounting fifty-two guns, commanded by Captain Roseau, member of the Legion of Honour, and manned by a complement of three hundred and sixteen seamen, chosen from Brest Harbour, and ninety-six marines, exclusive of troops; the slaughter on board her was great; six officers and ninety-six men were killed; the captain, four officers, and a hundred and nine men were wounded; our loss was comparatively small; one officer and twenty-seven men killed, four officers and forty-two seamen and marines wounded. It is extraordinary that our loss was not greater, as the enemy fired broken bottles, large nails, pieces of rugged iron, langrage, and iron in the shape of a horse shoe, about half an inch thick, and hollow in the centre; the latter were easily distinguished when passing, for a number of them being fastened together by a wire, when fired from the cannon, immediately separated, and made a musical noise in the air, which was a novelty to us, ignorant of what caused so agreeable a sound to the ear; those instruments of destruction cut away a great deal of our

rigging. We only made use of round and double-headed shot, grape, and canister.

The Junon was commanded by one of the most skilful and brave officers in the French navy, and a particular favourite of Napoleon Buonaparte's; the officers and crew were picked men; she was one hundred and twelve tons larger than the Horatio, and her weight of metal nearly one-third greater; her main-deck guns were long twenty-four pounders; on the quarter-deck and forecastle she had fifty-two pounders, and fourteen swivels in the tops; she had a complement of men, exceeding ours by one hundred and fifty-one. We had eighteen pounders on the main-deck, and twent-four pounders on the quarter-deck and forecastle. The French captain died on the following morning, having received six musket balls in the head, and eight in the body; he was buried in the sea with all funeral honours due to his rank. On leaving port he took off his hat before his officers and men, and, after an harangue, declared that he would not put it on again until he took a British frigate; he sat on the quarter-deck hammocks during the action, and was frequently seen with his hat in his hand. The scene exhibited, on taking possession of her, was awfully striking; the masts, sails, and rigging lay over the sides; the hull was perforated by three hundred shot holes, several of her ports knocked into one, and many of her guns dismounted; the wounded, dying, and slain, lying about, exhibited

one scene of slaughter; the main-deck, in many places, was strewed with brains and besmeared with blood; the quarter-deck, although crimsoned with gore, did not present so awful an appearance, the killed having been thrown over board. We secured our prisoners in the hold, erected jury masts, and sailed with our prize in tow for the Bermuda Isles, where we arrived in safety, and were received by the inhabitants with congratulations. The Horatio, as she sailed with her prize, in which the union jack prouldly waved over the tricoloured flag of France, and the shouts of the multitudes who crowded to the shore to witness the triumphant scene, proclaimed, as with a voice of the most prevailing eloquence, what, both before and since, many a blood-stained and hard earned victory has attested, that "Britannia rules the waves." Captain Scott was shortly after knighted, and Lieutenants Dixon and Douglas were immediately promoted to the rank of commanders.*

2nd October—The Africaine, having completed her supply of water, sailed with a strong breeze.

10th—Made Ascension, a small island between Africa and South America; it presents the appearance of barren hills and vallies, altogether devoid of plantations. Nothing worthy of notice occurred until the 14th

* Captain Scott, First Lieutenant Dixon, and myself, were handsomely rewarded by the Patriotic Fund, for wounds received in this action.

of November, when we experienced a heavy gale of wind, and discovered five feet of water in the hold; the chain pumps were set to work, and the ship examined. On going into the bread-room the biscuit was observed to be afloat, owing to a leak sprung under the sternmost; another leak was also discovered at the bow, about eight feet under water. The store-rooms were completely inundated. Our situation was very alarming; the ship being old and rotten, the pumps did not gain on the leaks, hence we were obliged to bring too, which enabled us to succeed in pumping with effect. We again bore up, and were not long on our course when we were constrained to pump as before, and continued in a most distressed state until the 30th, when the green hills of Erin appeared at a distance. A view of my native shore, after a long absence, was indeed most pleasing. In the course of the day a pilot boat came off to us; but, as the sea ran tremendously high, she could not venture alongside, and we almost despaired of getting a pilot. A man in the boat hailed us to fasten a buoy to a rope and heave it over board. We did so, and, to our surprise, the pilot, having seized it, sailed under our stern, exclaiming with a gruff voice, he would be on board of us in a moment. He fastened the rope round his waist, jumped into the sea, and remained in this perilous situation (at one time appearing on the top of a wave, and, at another, altogether hidden from view) for some minutes, when he

was hauled on board safely, and unhurt; his appearance was most striking; he was a very large and fine looking man, clad in sailor's dress, with the exception of large boots, which extended half way up his thigh; we asked him to change his dress, which he refused to do; however he took a glass of brandy as a precaution against cold. We now bore up for Bantry Bay, and before evening anchored in Baerhaven.

Before the ship was moored, Captain O'Sullivan and several gentlemen came on board to invite us to their houses; accordingly as many officers as could be spared went ashore with them, where we found horses ready to convey us to the captain's residence, in whose hospitable mansion we were entertained with "cead mile failte."

Many were the congratulations we received from the numerous company who had come to bid us welcome, and largely was that hospitality manifested which distinguishes the natives of Erin from those of any other country. We only remained four days here, during which time the attention of the neighbouring gentlemen was unremitting. Having secured the leak in a temporary manner, by running the guns aft, and lightening the ship, we sailed on the evening of the 1st December, contrary to the advice of many experienced persons, who brought to our recollection the circumstance of a British frigate, with all the crew, having perished in this bay a few years previous. The night was dark and tempestuous, and the wind contrary; we continued

beating about till nine next morning, when we got a slant of wind that enabled us to get out of the bay; and on the morning of the eighth made the Isle of Wight. In a few hours we were safely moored at Spithead, from whence we had sailed with three hundred and fifty men, out of which number only forty-two returned.

As one of this little band, thus saved from a watery grave, and the calamities which had, in various forms, snatched away from a misspent time, to a never-ending eternity, many of our thoughtless companions, I desire thus publicly to acknowledge, that all the loving kindness and tender mercies I experienced at the hand of my God, are to be ascribed not to any worthiness of my own, but to the free and sovereign mercy of Him w[illegible]ept me in the midst of vanity and ungodliness for the gracious purpose of exhibiting himself to my astonished mental vision as a reconciled Father—reconciled, too, in the blood of his *own Son* Jesus Christ. Yes, I can now thank God that he has fired my breast with the noblest and brightest flame that ever played in the bosom of soldier, sailor, or patriot. Even undying love for Him who first loved me and washed me from my sins in His own blood, to whom be glory for ever! I am sure every Christian reader, who has felt the rude shocks our seemingly frail ark has often experienced on the voyage of life, will join me in the

spirit of the prayer shut up in the following sweet lines :—

"Oh that our ship were safe on shore,
Lodg'd in the port where Jesus is :
Where neither winds nor waters roar,
And all the tides are tides of bliss.

But while our floating ark shall ride,
And beat on life's tempestuous sea ;
Our dang'rous course may Jesus guide ;
May he our constant pilot be."

THE END.

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